

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CITY BEAUTIFUL

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To M.B.

C I T Y B E A U T I F U L



A C O L L E C T I O N
O F E I G H T Y F I V E
P H O T O G R A P H S

B Y

Mario Bucovich



Letter 2°

956961

13 '38

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This collection of photographs is the first effort in book form to give a pictorial impression of the capital of the United States of America. The city of Washington is still in the making and generations will pass before the dreams of so many disciples of beauty and democracy will have materialized.

Photographs, no matter how many, cannot catch all the varied features of a city's character, but it may be possible for the camera to interpret partly the spirit which seems, subconsciously perhaps, to guide its growth. For months I have wandered daily through Washington and its beautiful surroundings, and my strongest impression was always of avenues of green, and open spaces with lovely views.

I do not think there is any capital in the world adorned with so many trees, and such chiaroscuro as Washington, and since its builders had neither reason nor ambition to knock on God's door, no fantastic skyscrapers shadow the sun.

The many parks, within and without the limits of the city, are the most lovely in the world. Rock Creek Park eclipses the Thier-Garten in Berlin, the Bois de Boulogne in Paris, Hyde Park in London, and the Prater in Vienna, and Potomac Park begins to manifest similar ambitions. For none of these famous places does the spring fashion so lovely a gown; here every year in May millions of little white petals of the Japanese cherry blossom gladden the life of the city.

The first planning of the Government buildings was mostly done at a time when classical influence was strong. The resemblance of some of them to famous buildings in Europe may symbolize the tendency of America not to forget the glories of the past in building for the great ambitions of her future.

When my eyes first met the marble brilliancy of the Lincoln Memorial one sunny spring morning, I enjoyed freely the harmony of colour and line. Then my thoughts happened to turn to one of the most glorious artistic creations of man, the Parthenon of the Acropolis in Athens; I remembered my dreams in that old sanctuary of the past, where I had thought of the countless throngs who must have cherished it as their supreme symbol of beauty. Here on the banks of the Potomac before this sanctuary of a nation in the making similar thoughts were renewed. I realized that for centuries to come this imposing memorial to one man whose wisdom and wide understanding rivalled that of the greatest of the ancients, would seem to perpetuate for millions of human beings the idea of a better and happier way of life. For similar reasons my lasting impression of the Washington Monument is not an architectural, but an emotional one. As such it is a symbol and is able to give sensations other and wider than those created by mere form and line.

I could not resist speculating on the image of a Washington as she might have been had her builders cast aside most of the tradition of past architecture and created a capital similar in character to the extravagant, still somehow threatening, architecture of magical New York City, with her amazing towers. Here in the soft and mellow country surrounded by flowing waters and green trees, the would-be practical architecture of fantastic buildings, brilliant and original as they are, could not give satisfactory results, nor would they so fittingly express the continuity of the thread of cultural life from the past to the future.

With similar thoughts I visited the Supreme Court Building. This austere masterpiece is a deeply impressive embodiment of the great conception and scope of its founders, and the very existence of a building so perfectly harmonious must be able to dignify and ennable the characters of those connected with it.

Among these buildings, so closely linked with the past, are some creations quite new in spirit and artistic conception. Of these the most beautiful to me is

the Folger Shakespearean Gallery, whose caressing white marble harmonizes admirably with the fresh green softness of the shadowing trees.

Again the White House, home of the Chief Executive of a territory of three and a half million square miles, is a fine example of the development of old colonial dreams. By its perfect simplicity it links the roughness of the old times to the present day, and certainly is a dignified residence for the man who is elected President of a great democracy.

The same quality of dignified simplicity is to be found in Arlington Mansion, where General Lee lived a hundred years ago. Its vast and lovely park is a fitting memorial to a great man, and we may think of him looking down towards the growing town beyond the Potomac, dreaming of the possibilities of a grandiose development.

I was fortunate in the gift of a lovely May morning for my first visit to Mount Vernon. Few places have given me such a deep impression of peace and happiness as this lovely spot where George Washington rested from his far-reaching activities, and where nature has used the most subtle colors of her palette. In its noble simplicity it is the ideal country house, and a sublime expression of the most happy union between nature and man.

I have tried to express, by means of my camera, some impressions of an artist, and the emotions of a sensitive traveller as he wandered about the streets and parks of Washington, the capital of the United States of America. I also tried to catch some part of the charm and the beauty of a city, which to me is a symbol of the ambition and the progress of the American people towards a better and happier life.

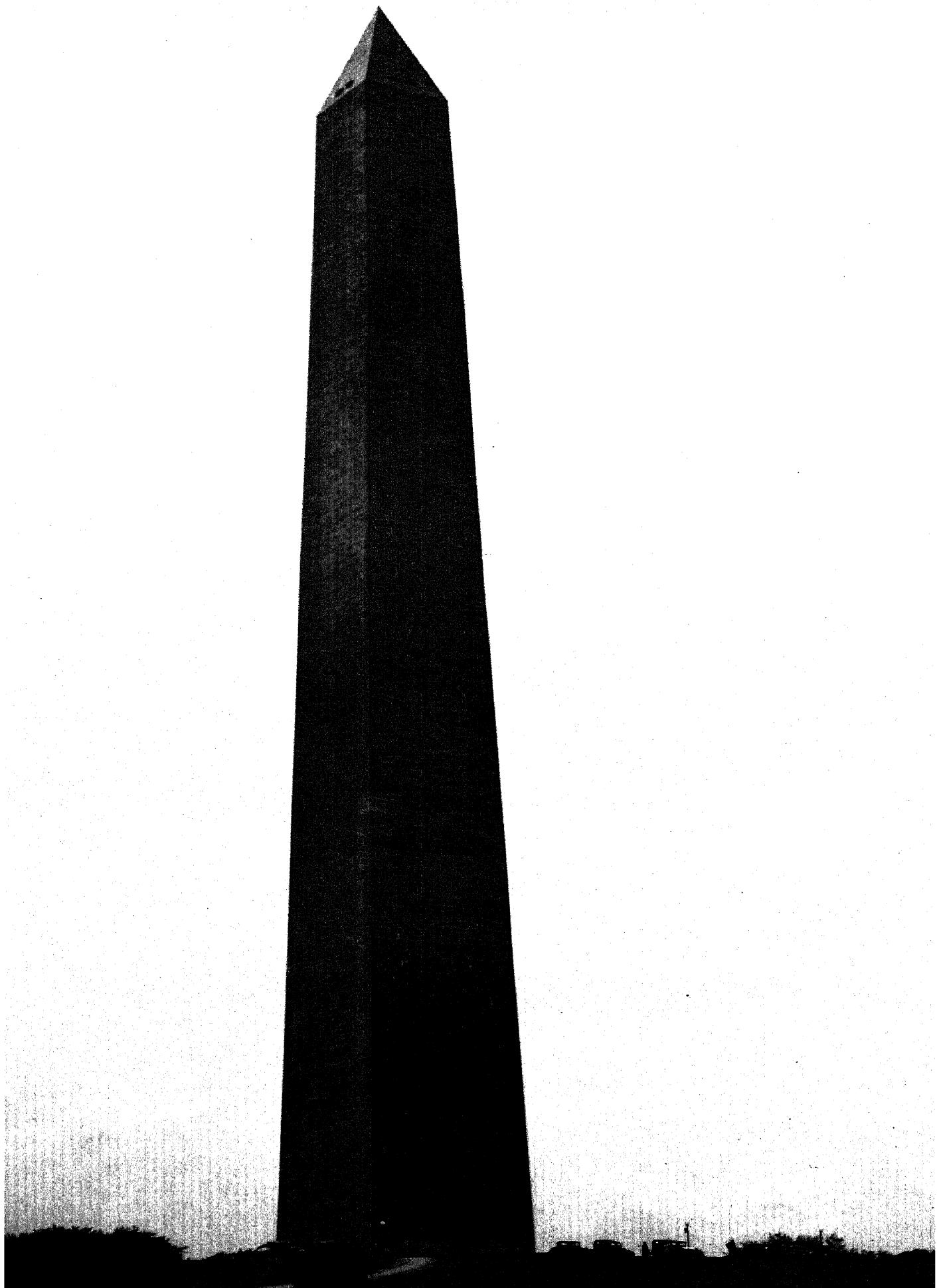
Mario Bucovich.

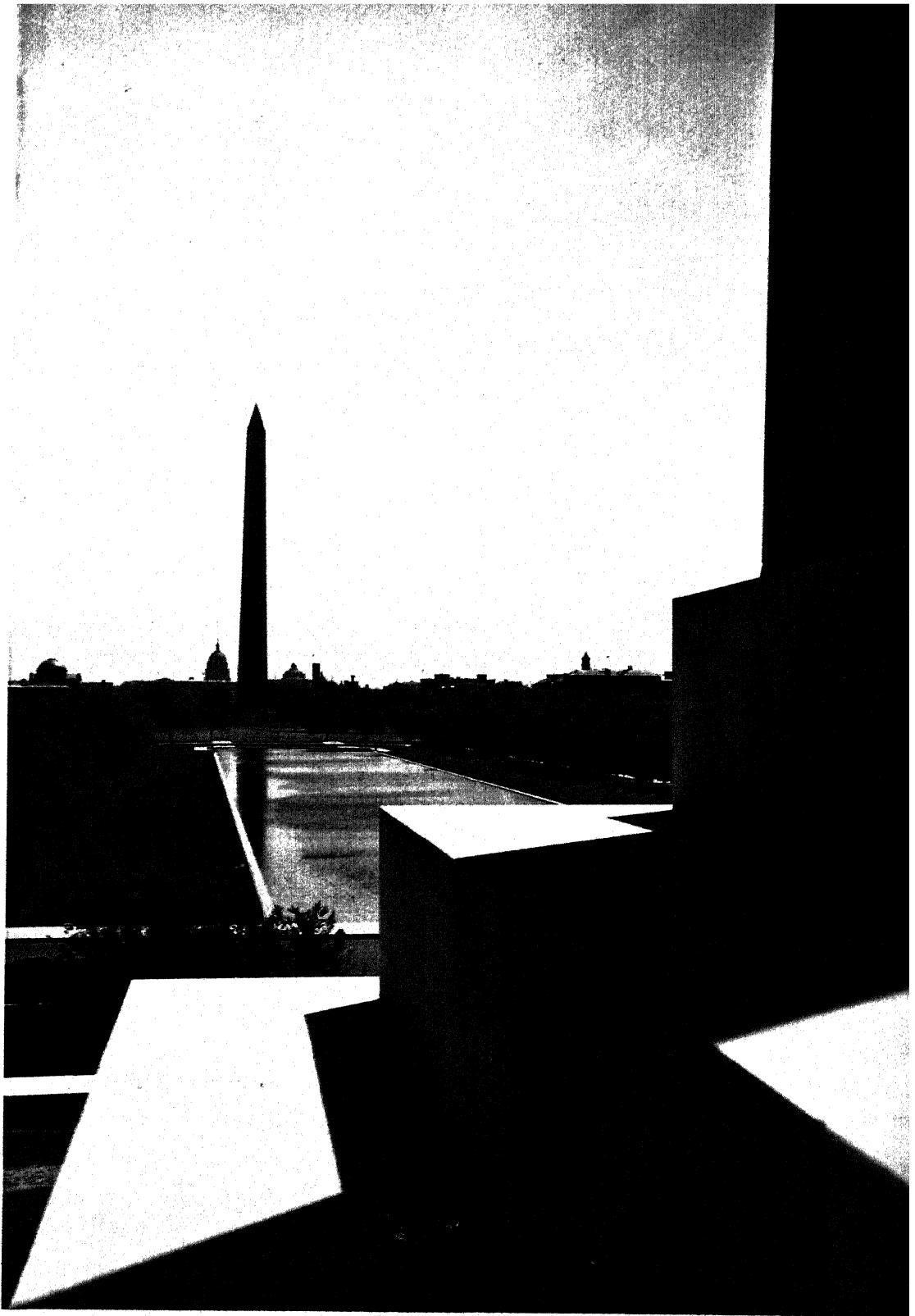
Washington, D. C.

May, 1936



Each year the pink petals of the Japanese cherry trees grow paler, away from their native land, but for a week in Spring the capital is filled with the atmosphere of their blossoms.



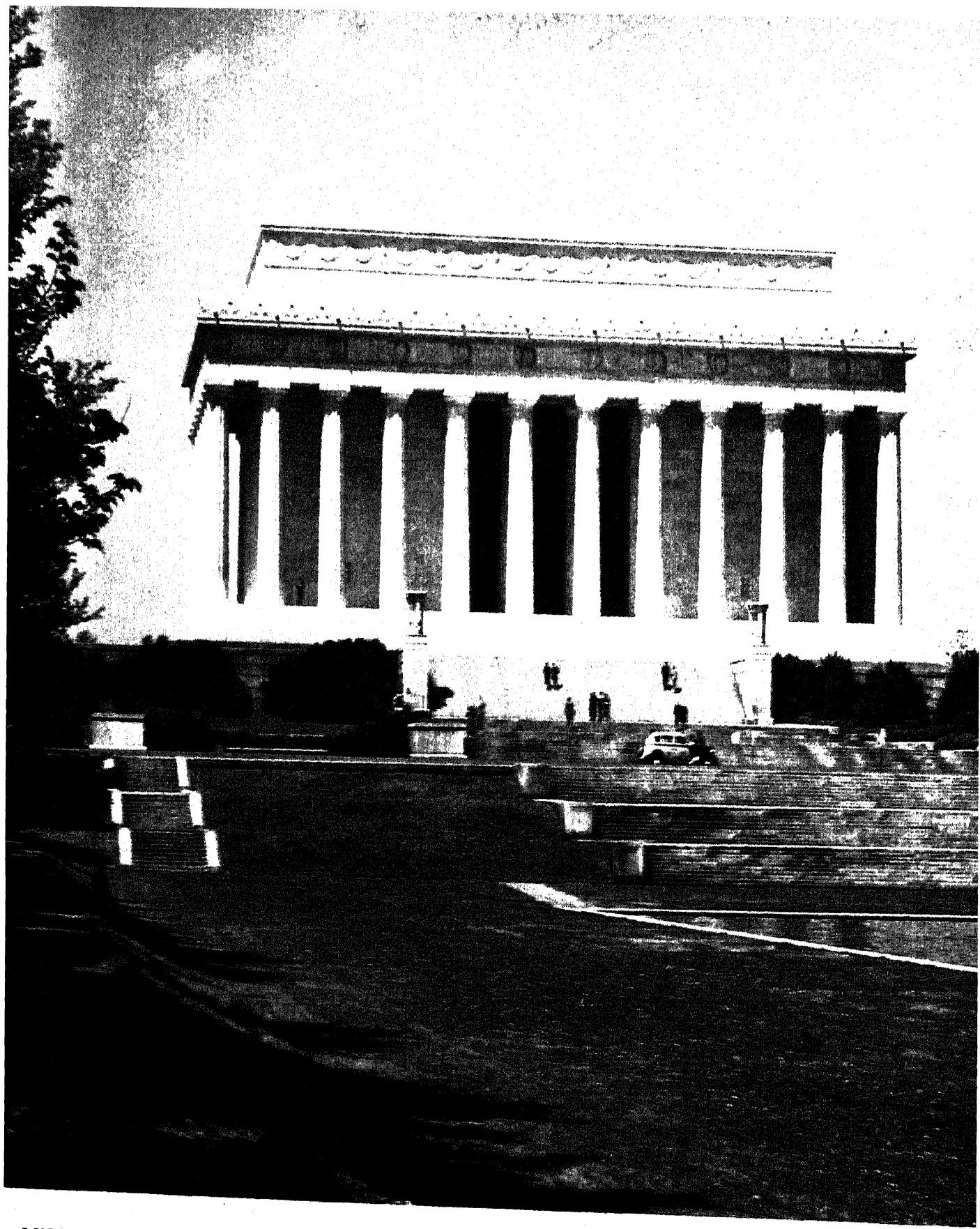


WEST FROM THE MEMORIAL

From the steps of the memorial to the man who held the country together, can be seen the monument of its founder, and the seat of its legislature.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT

A single shaft, without adornment, rises as a simple and majestic reminder of the first president, symbol of a realized dream . . . the U. S. A.

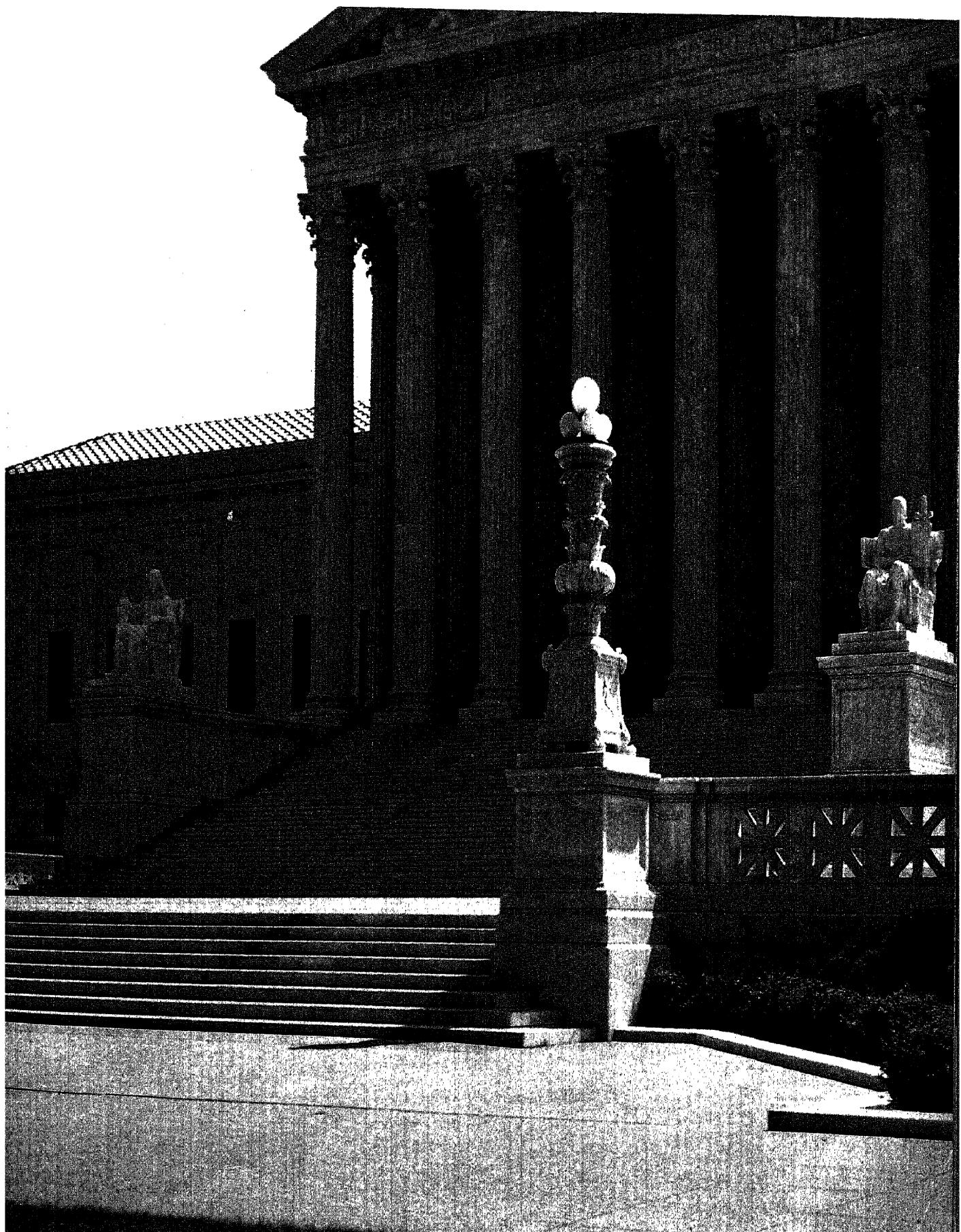


LINCOLN MEMORIAL

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right."

"The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court."

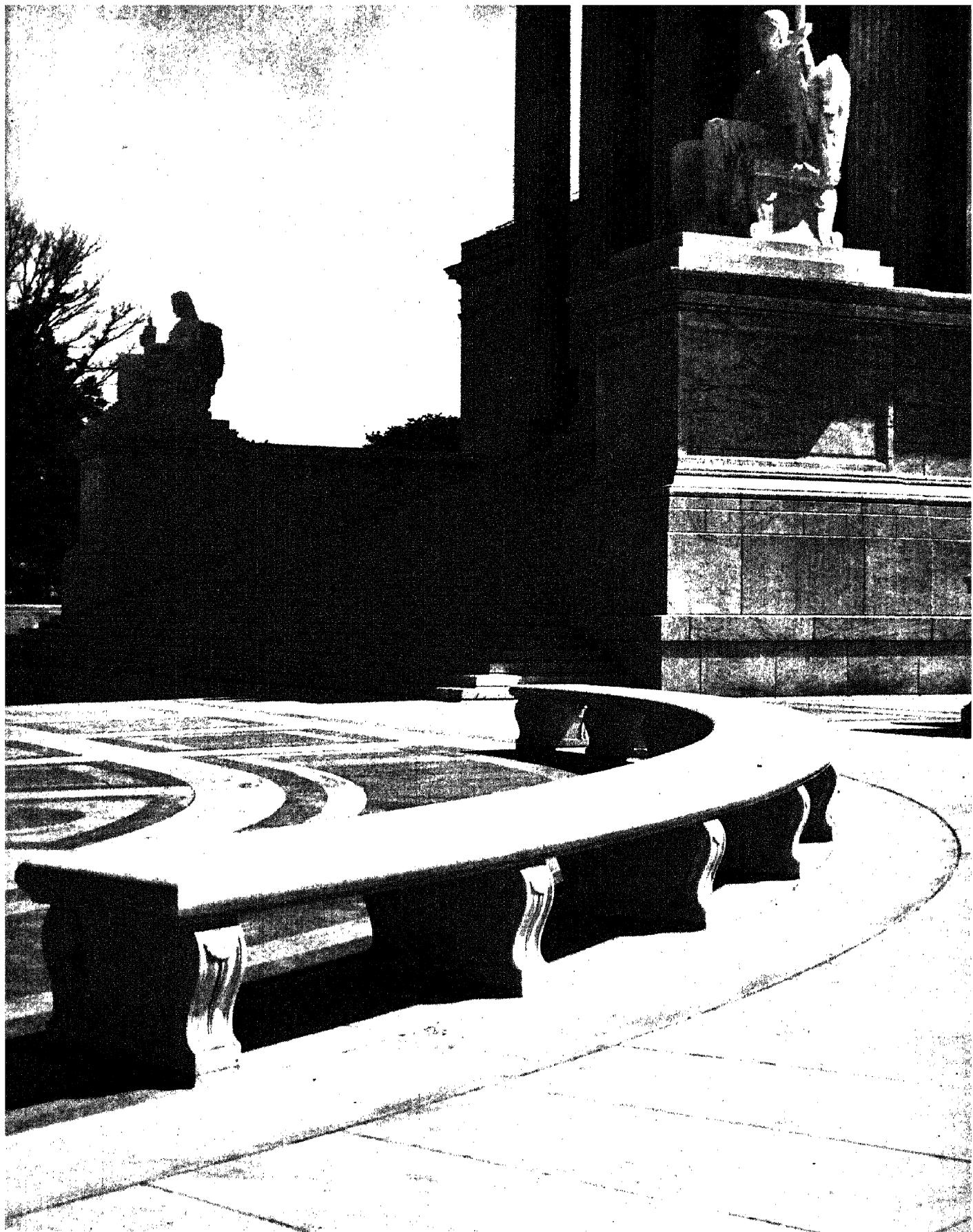
NINE MEN



A certain cool restfulness characterizes the building of the Supreme Court.

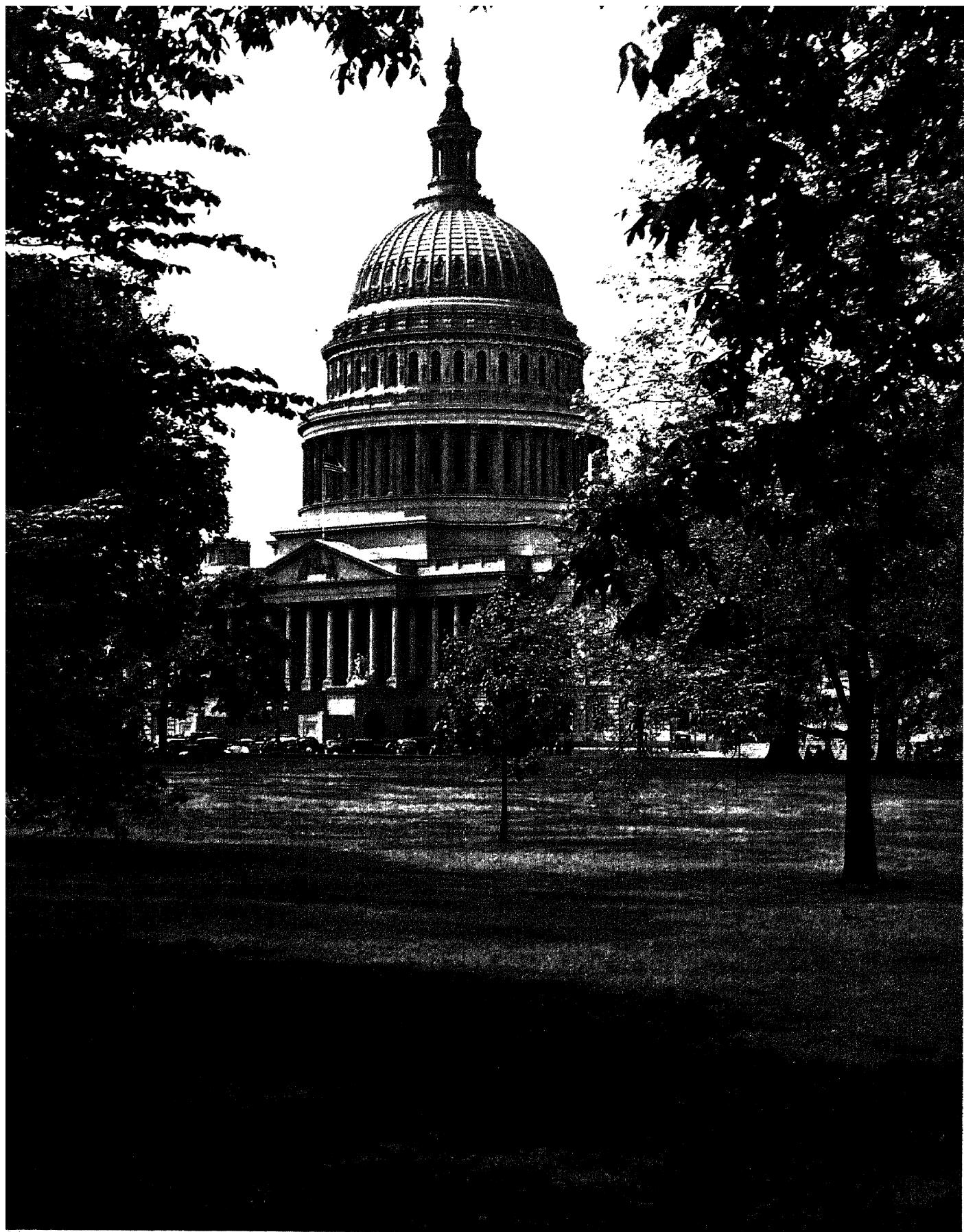
INTERIOR COURT OF SUPREME COURT





AREOPAGUS

Flanking the stairway to the Supreme Court sit the figures of Contemplation of Justice and Guardian of Liberty.

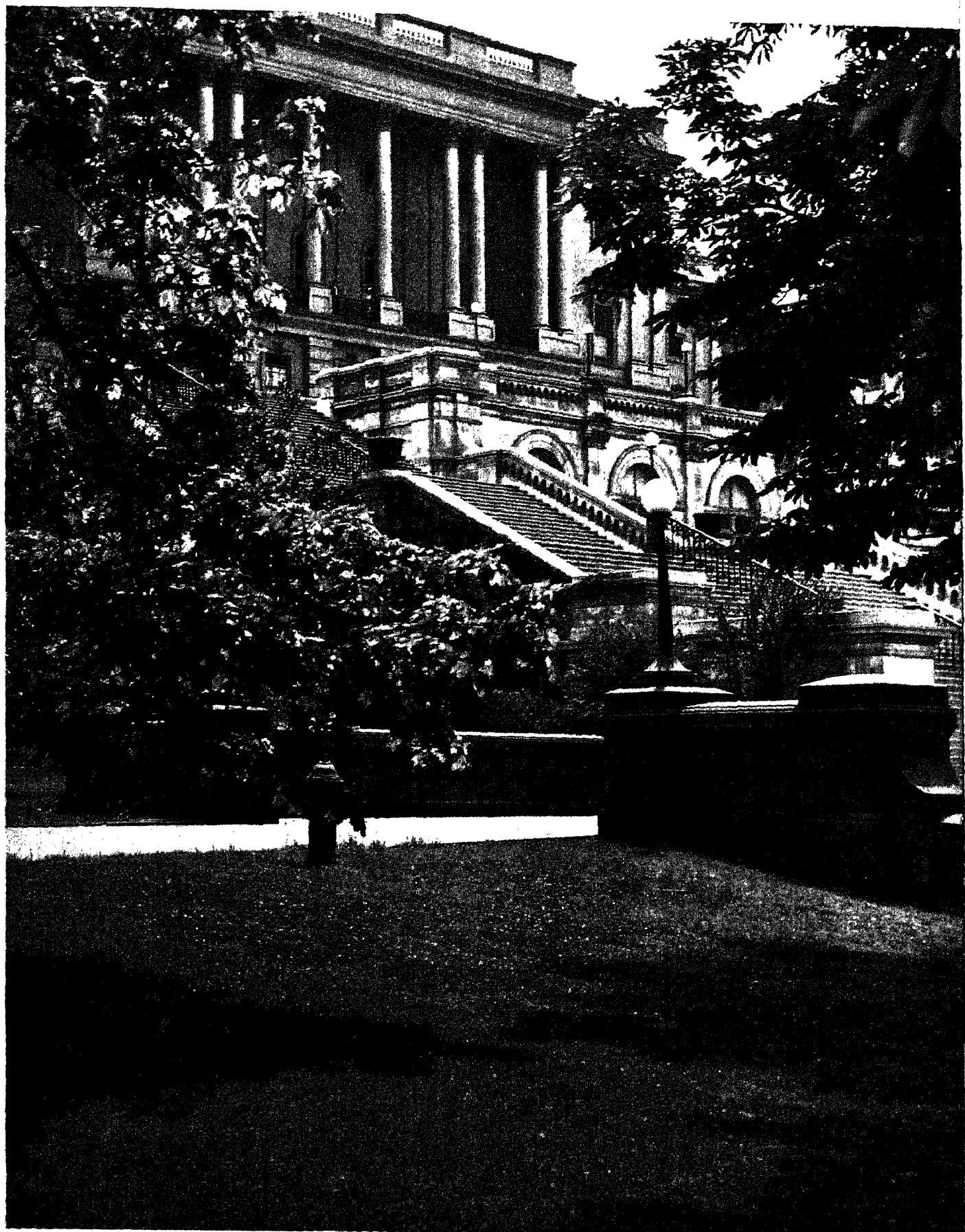


EAST FRONT OF THE CAPITOL

Respect and understanding healed the scars after the burning by the British in 1814. Across the way gleams the marble of the Supreme Court Building.

"All legislative powers . . . shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives."

WEST FRONT OF THE CAPITOL



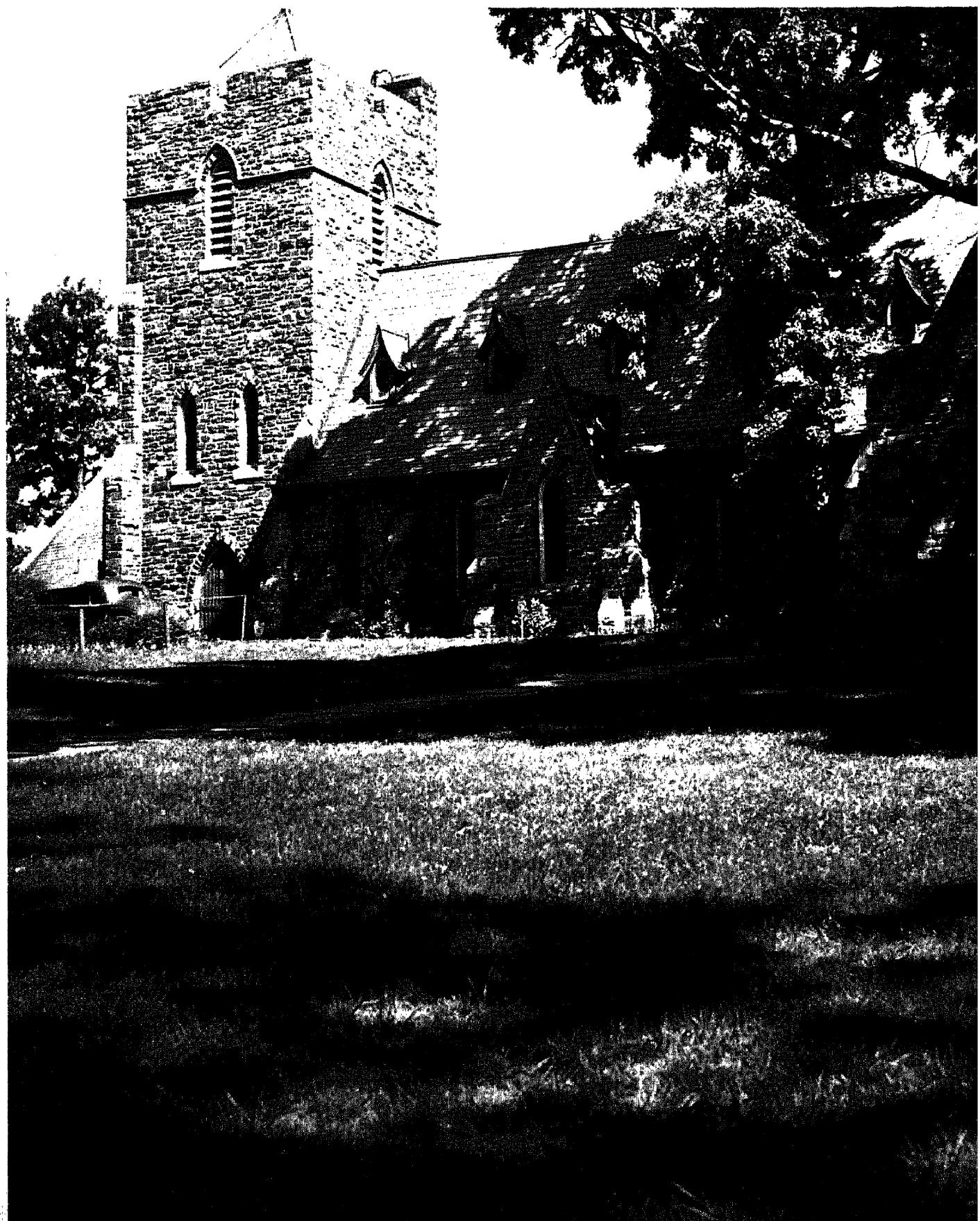


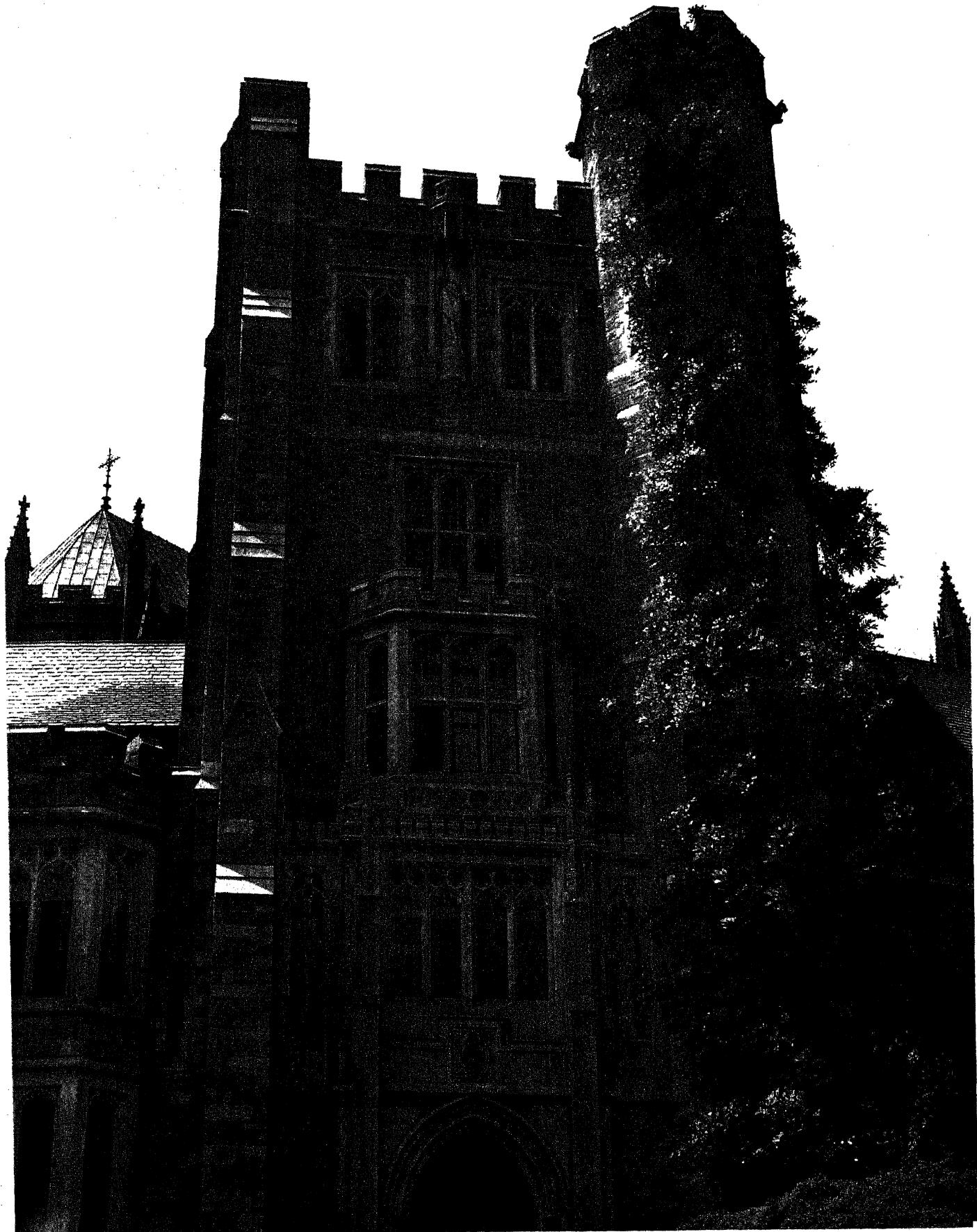
WEST FROM THE CAPITOL

The streets of the city are lined with beautiful shade trees and parked cars in long parallel rows.

When the land for the Cathedral was given, it was conditioned upon the continued independence of this church.

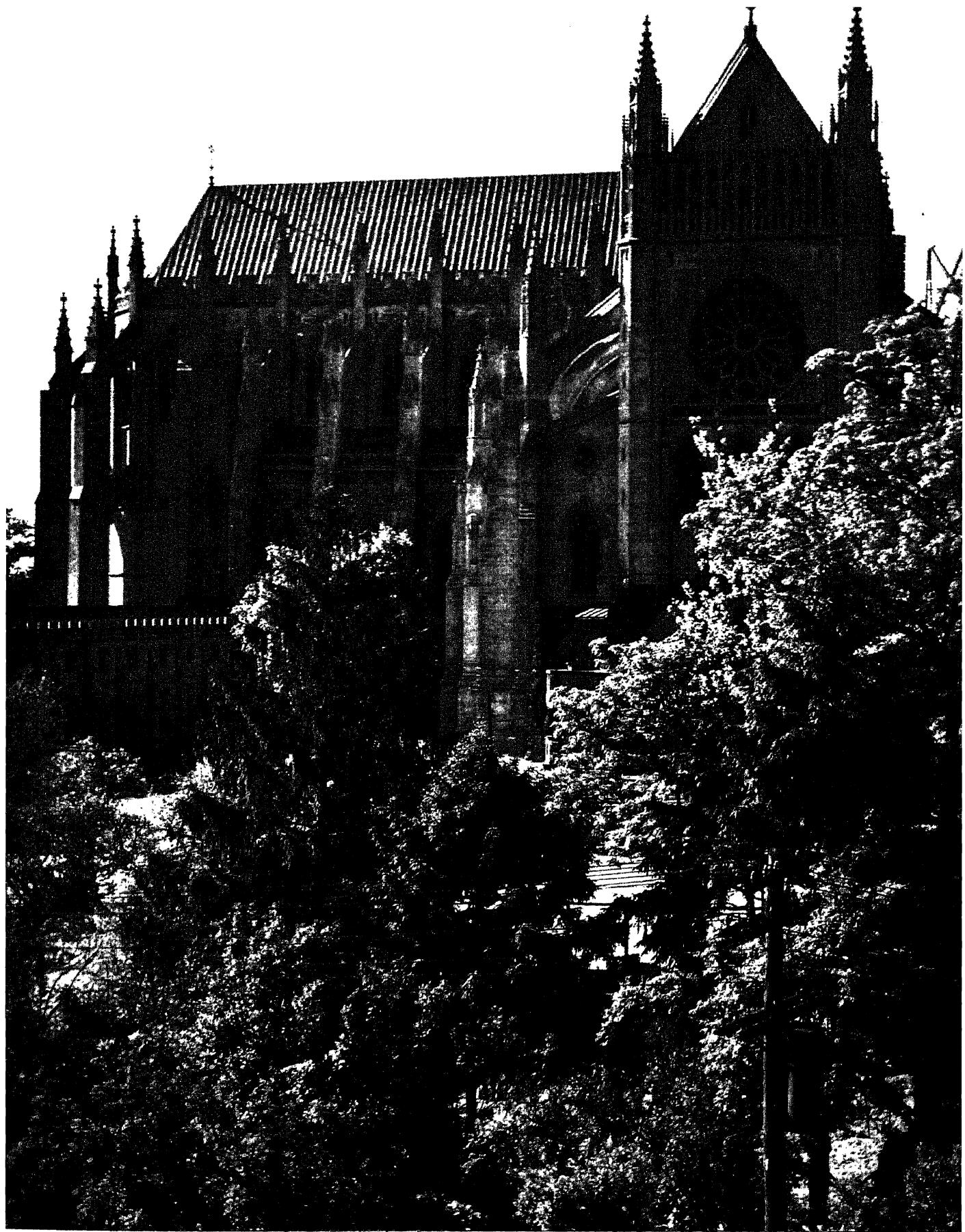
ST. ALBAN'S





COLLEGE OF PREACHERS

To this sanctuary in the Cathedral precincts
come preachers for study and contemplation.

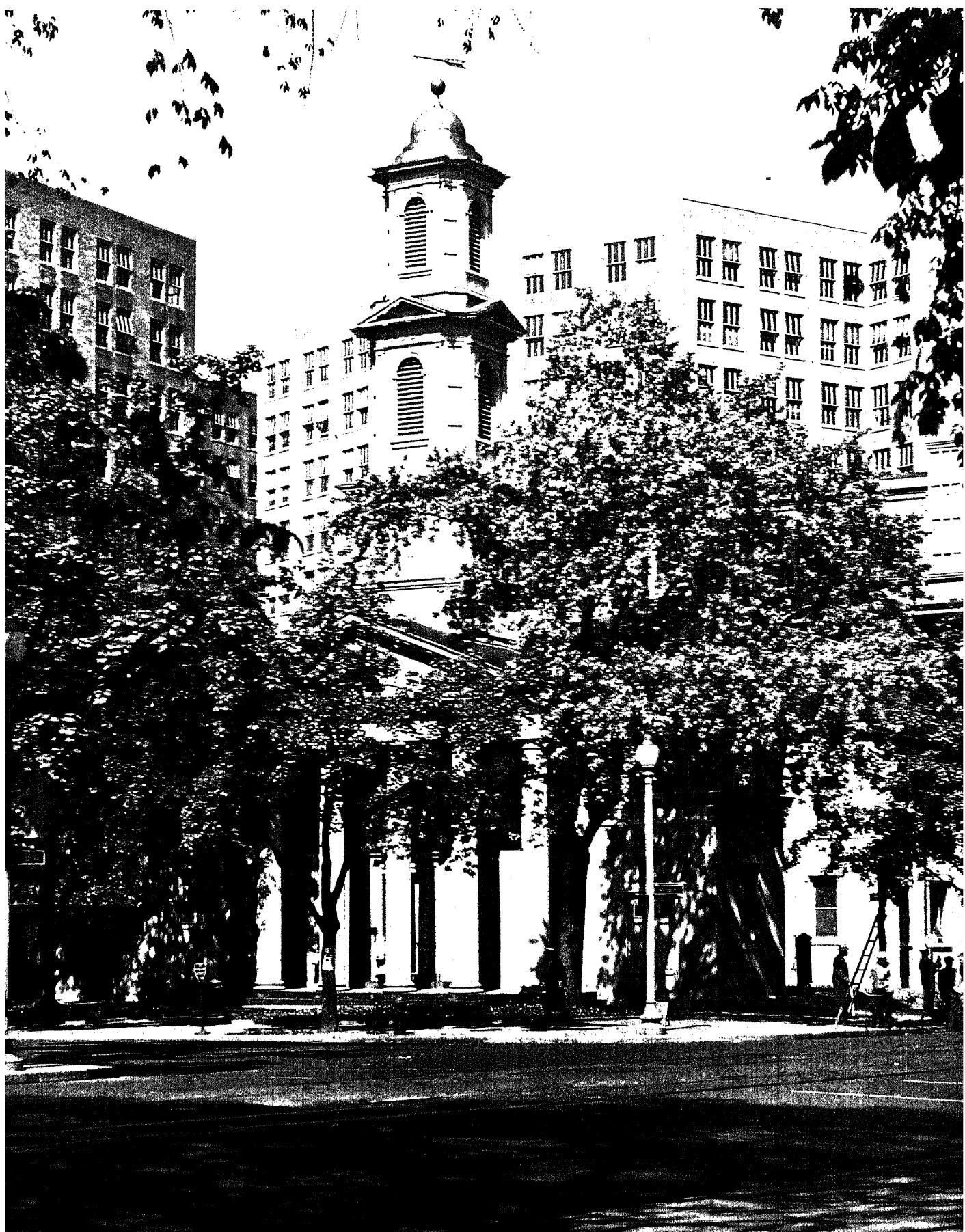


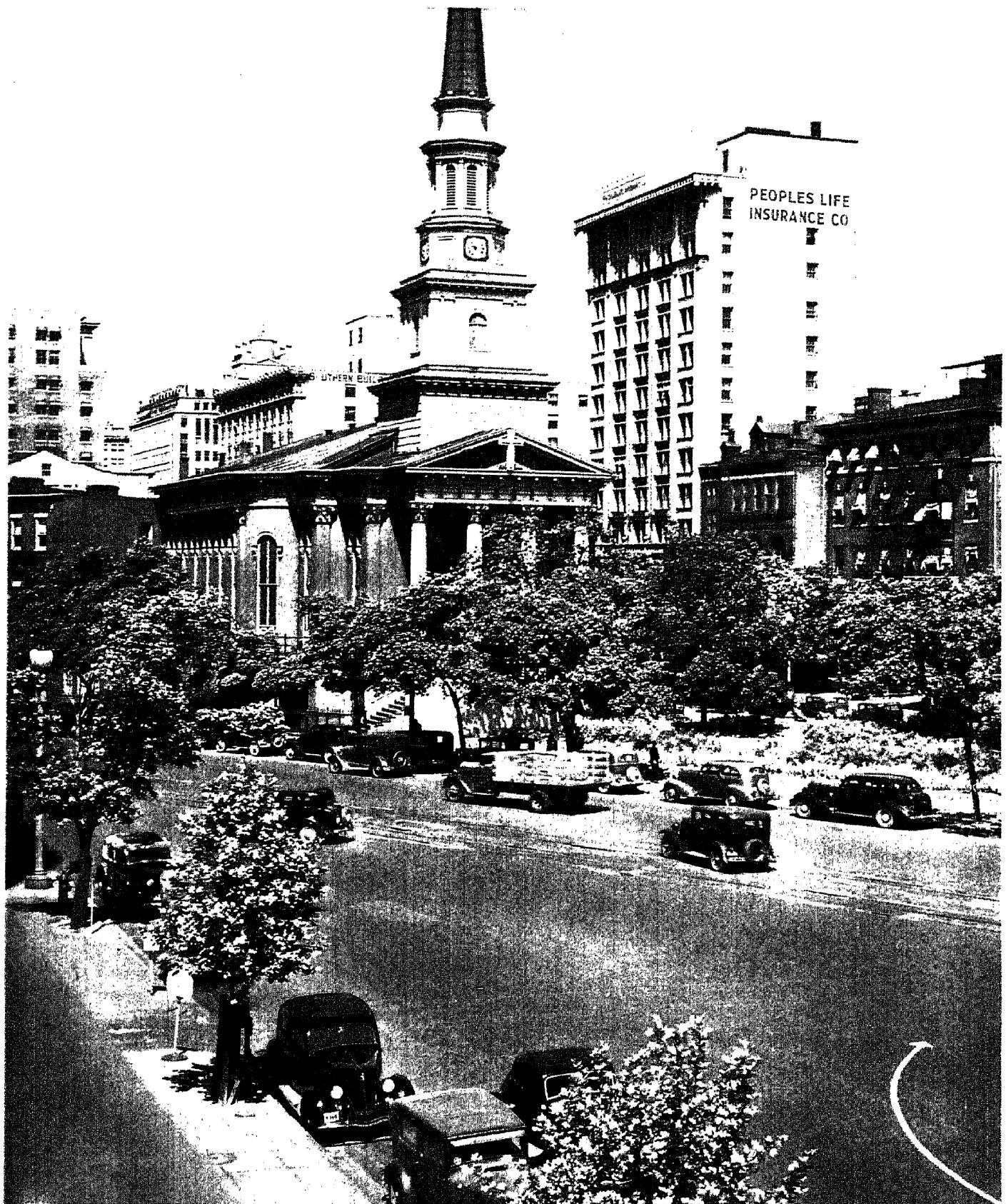
THE CATHEDRAL

Built like the Temple of David, without sound of hammer, the National Cathedral of the Protestant Episcopal Church stands high above the stream at its feet.

Across Lafayette Square from the White House, it is rumored that a rector of this, the second oldest church in the city, defied the government to take its land.

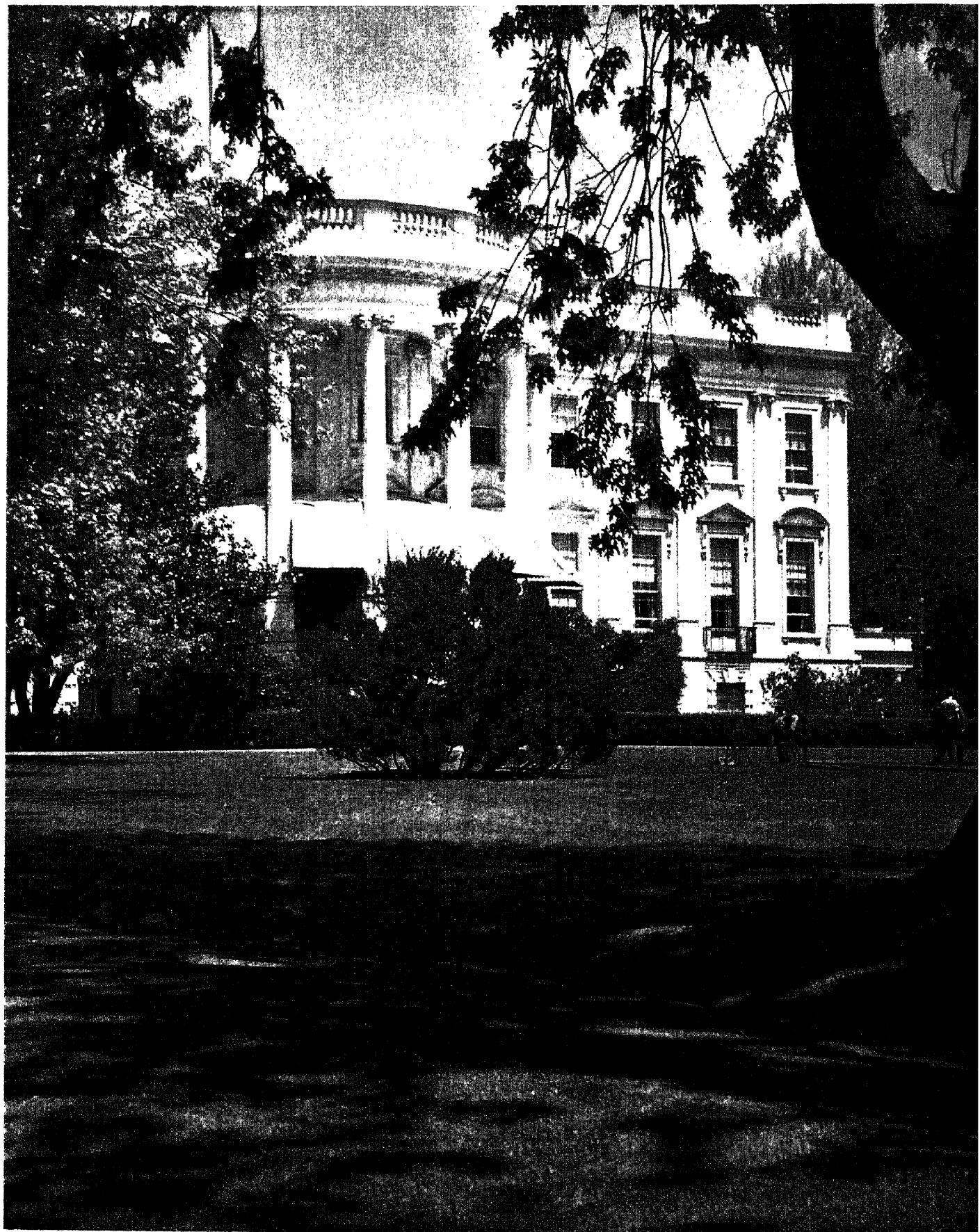
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH





NEW YORK AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

During the stormy days of his presidency,
Abraham Lincoln worshipped here.

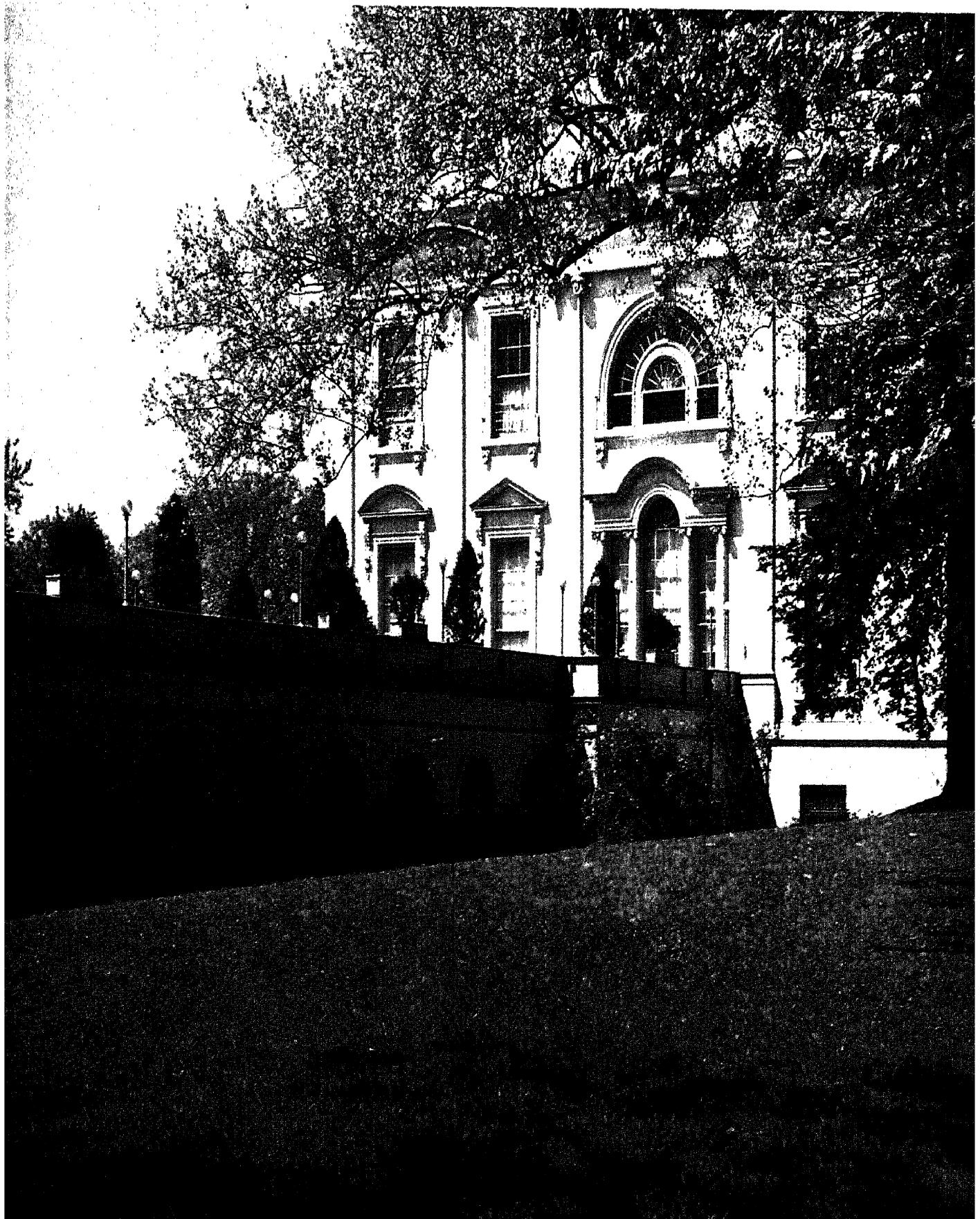


SOUTH SIDE OF THE WHITE HOUSE

The zero milestone stands at the foot of the White House grounds. From this all distances are measured.

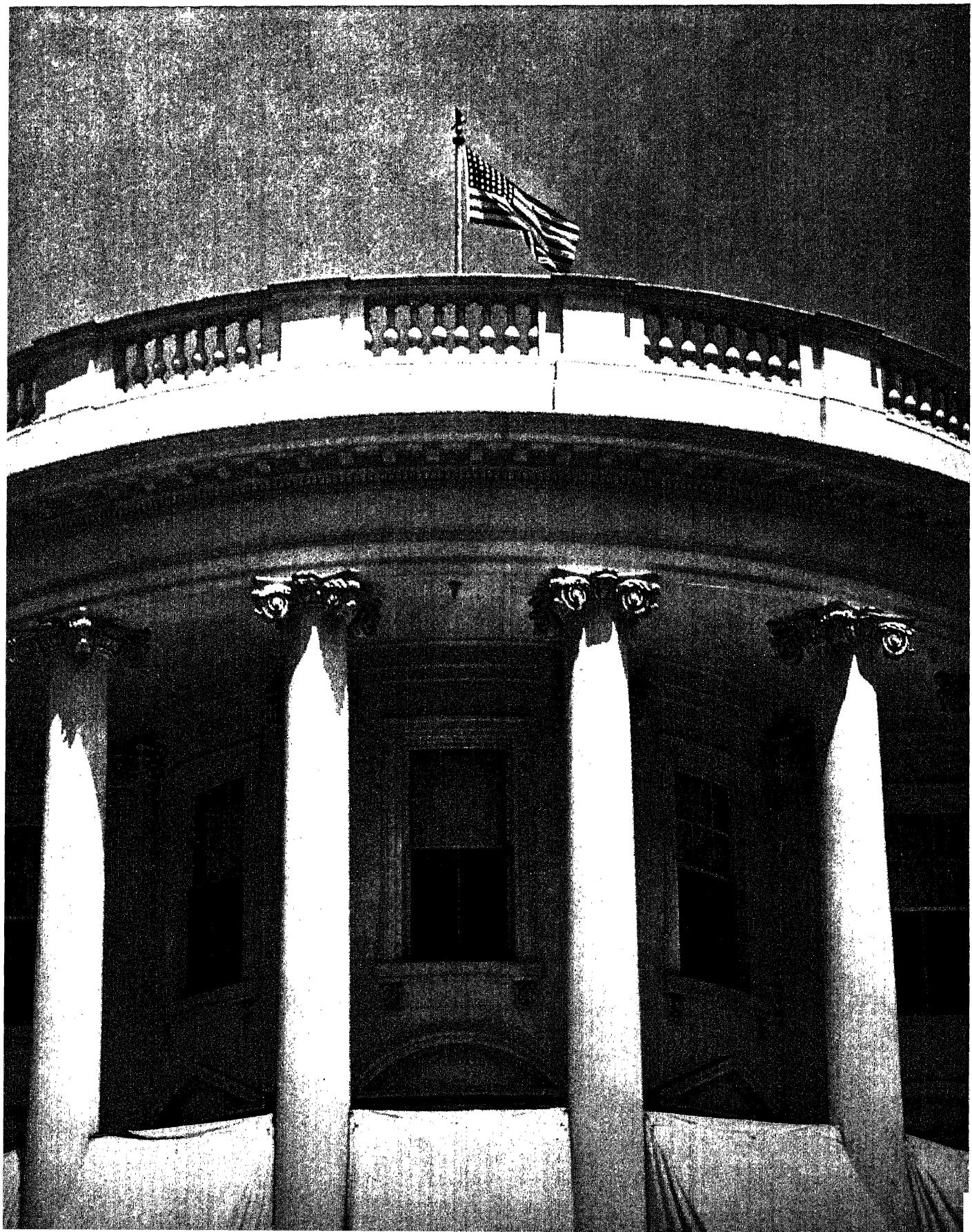
Until 1933 officially designated as the Executive Mansion, now the White House, its name comes from the color of paint used to cover the marks of fire.

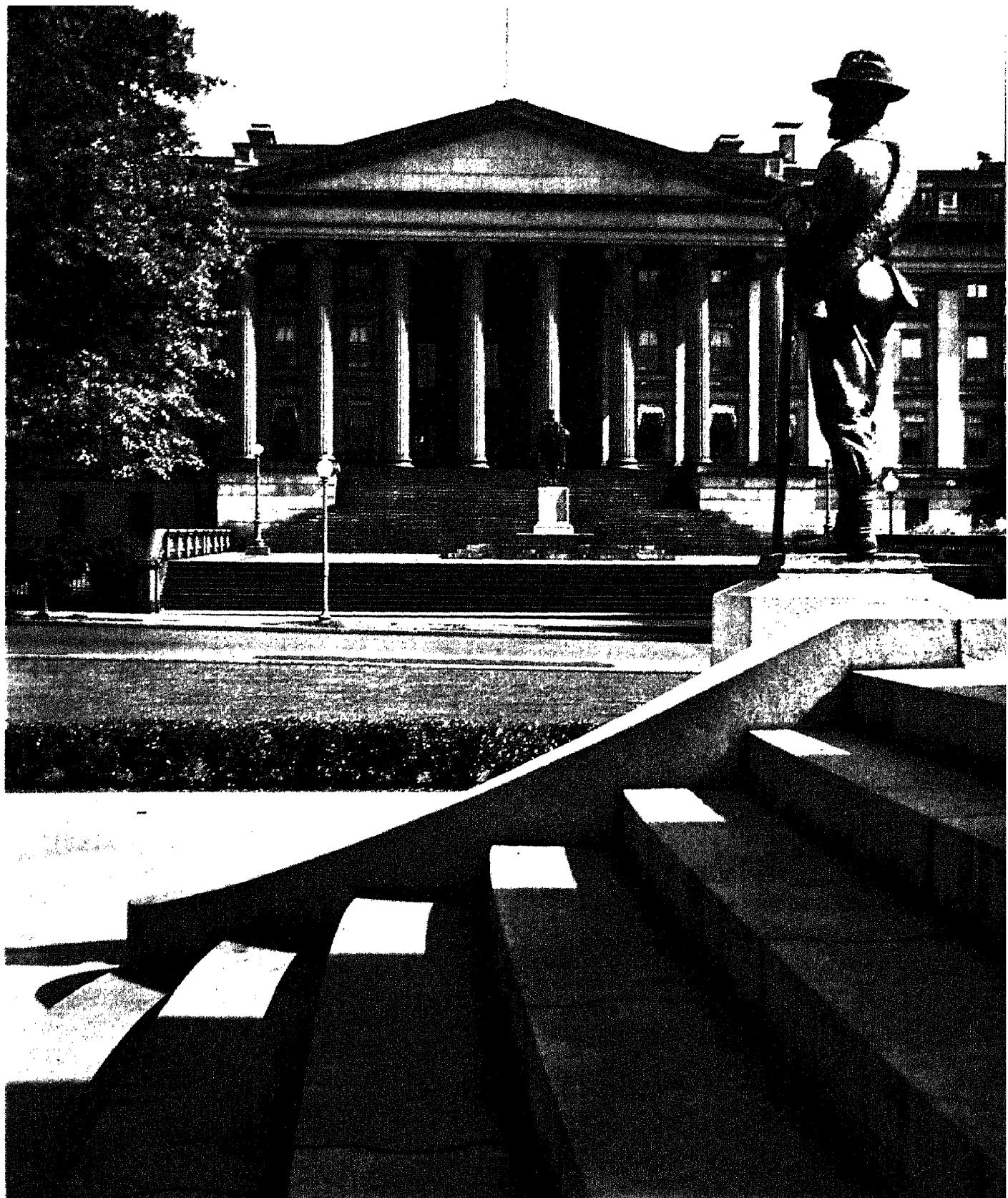
EAST WING OF THE WHITE HOUSE



"The executive power shall be vested in a
President of the United States of America."

ONE MAN

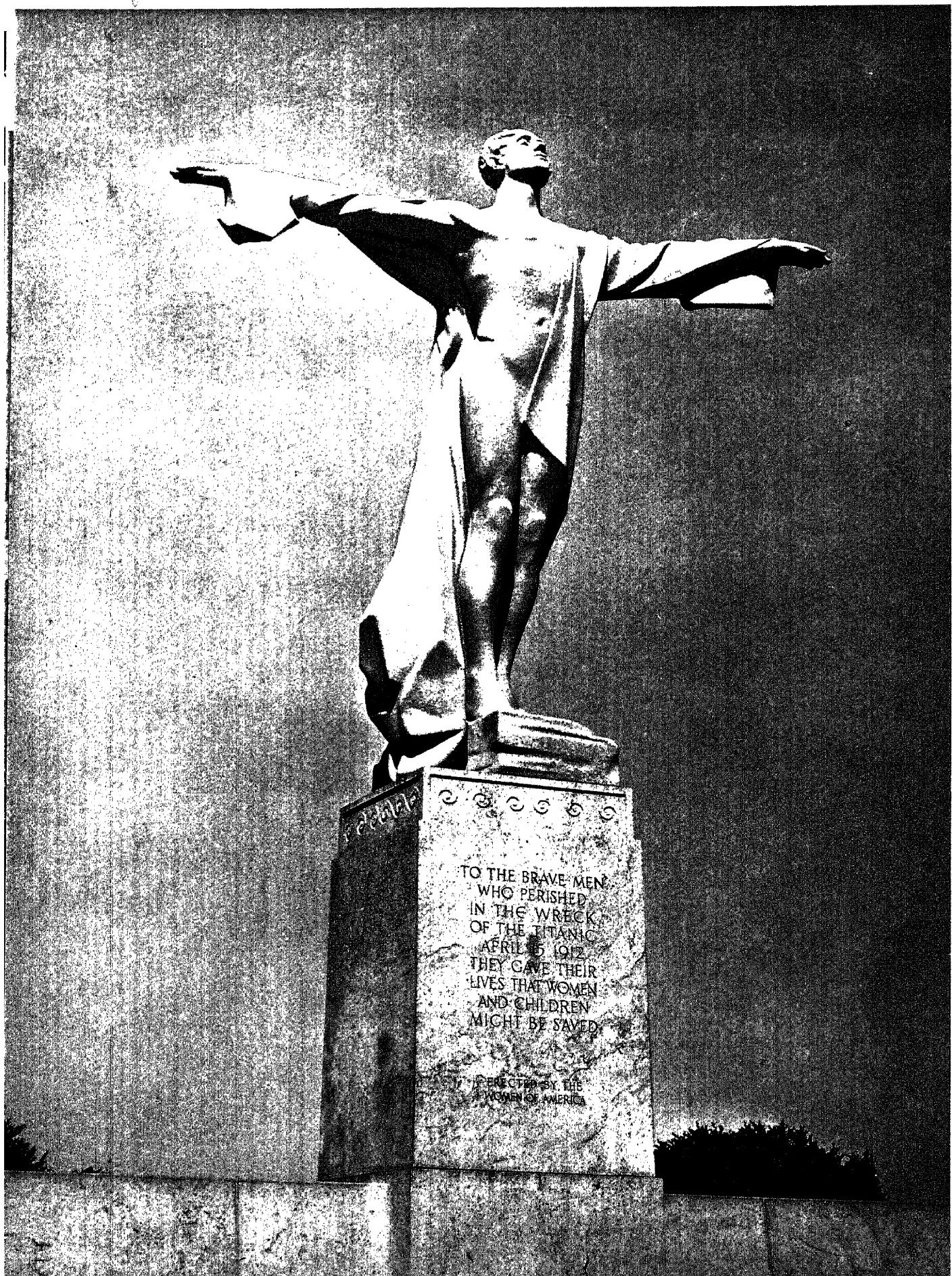


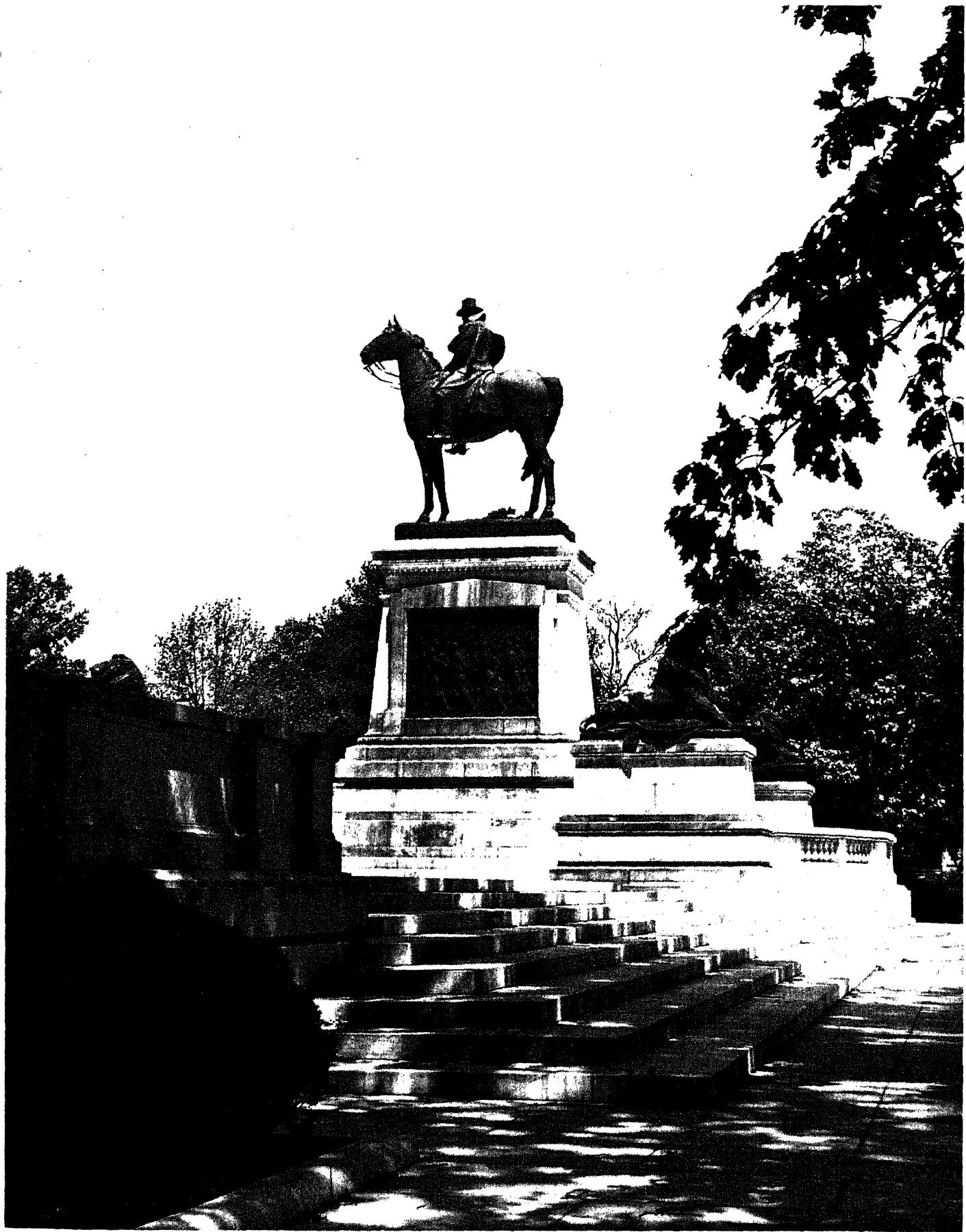


COUNTING HOUSE

President Jackson, irritated at the delay in choosing a site for the Treasury, on a morning walk stuck his cane in the ground and said "Build it here!"

TITANIC MEMORIAL



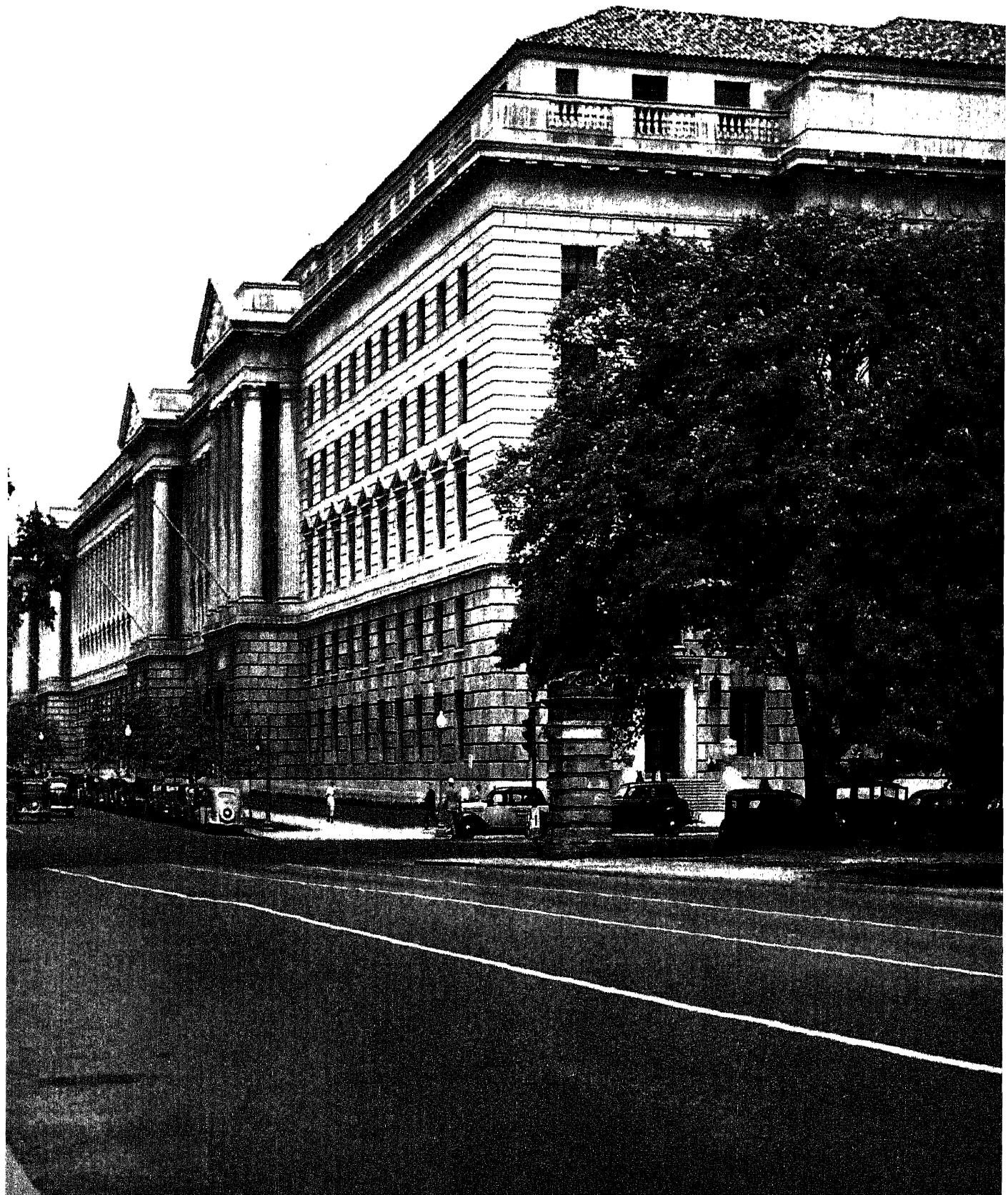


"WE MUST HAVE PEACE!"

Throughout the capital are many impressive memorials to the leaders of our armed forces on land and sea. This statue of Grant is complete; his tomb in New York has never been finished.

The Department of Commerce covers almost three acres of land, has five miles of corridors and 5,000 windows.

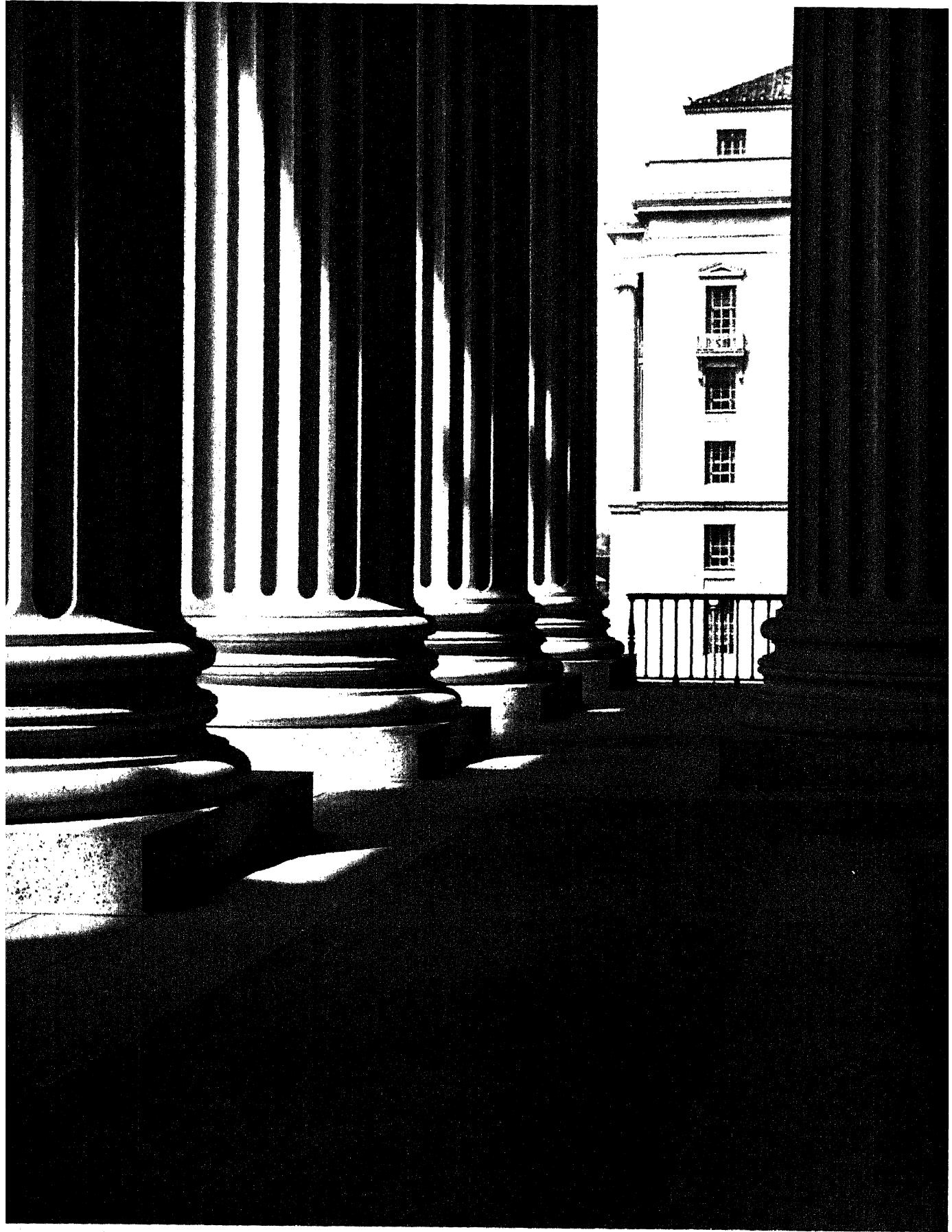
COMMERCE BUILDING — WEST





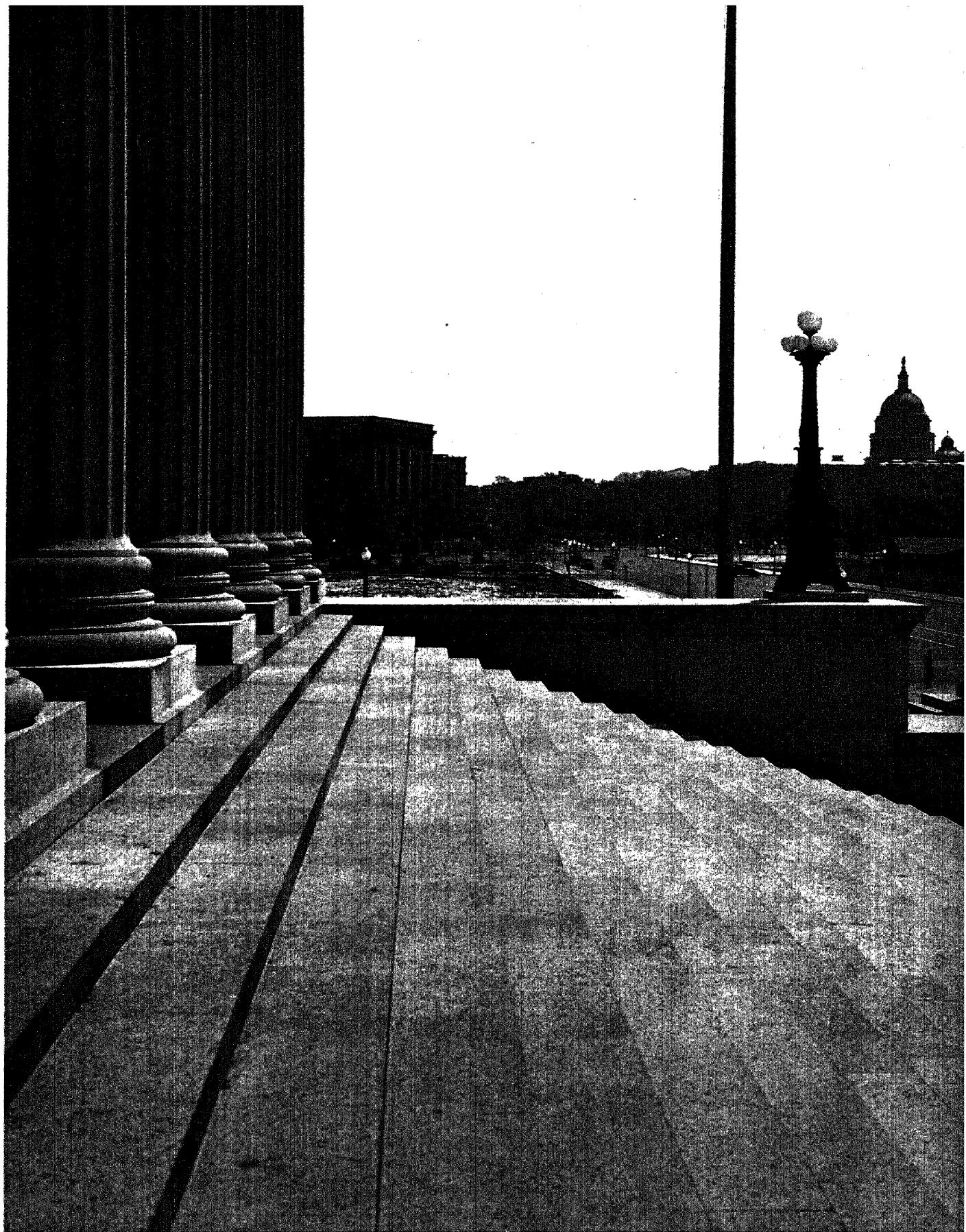
CONSTITUTION AVENUE

For blocks the new quarters for the Federal Government stretch down the triangle formed by Fourteenth Street and Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues.



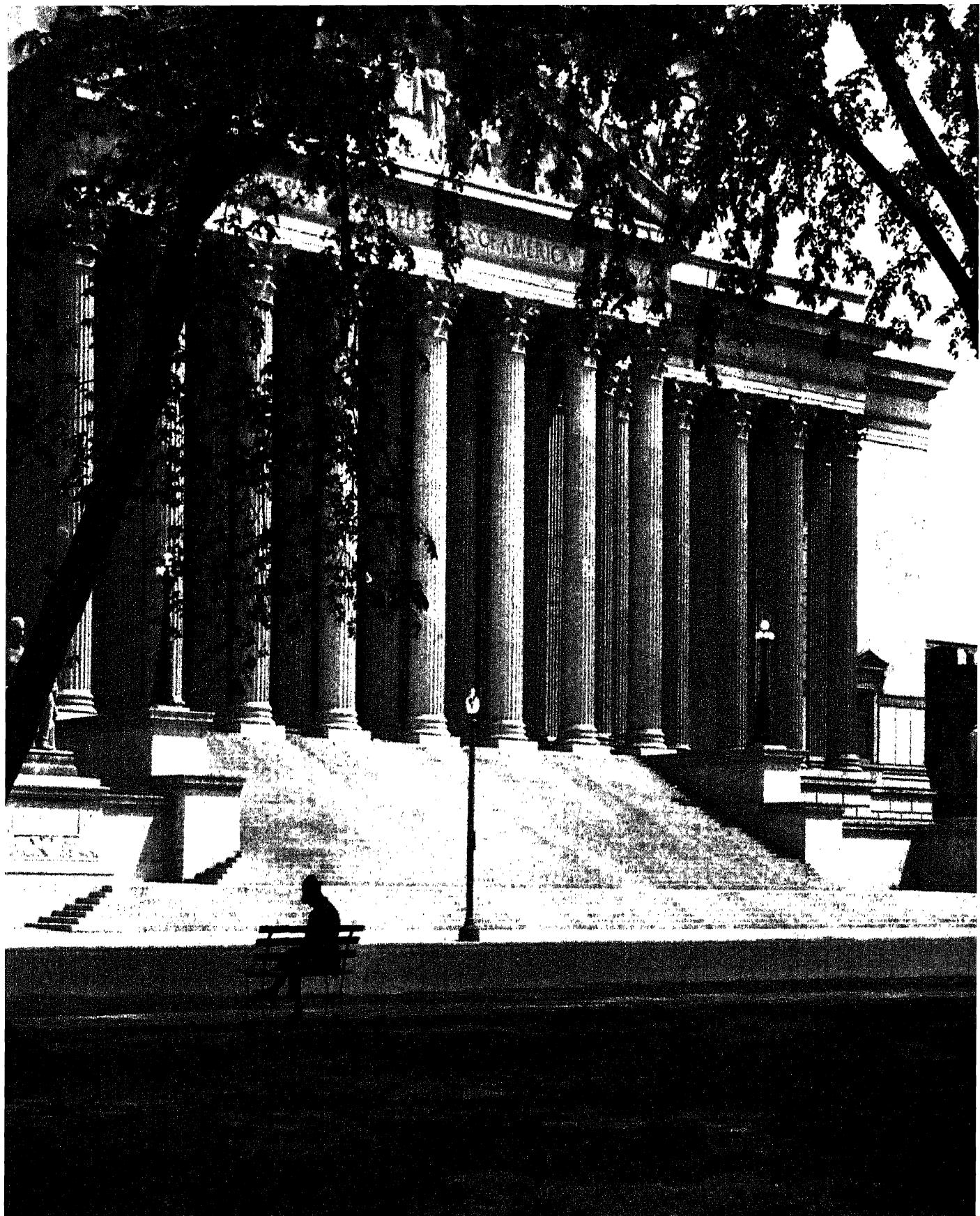
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FROM ARCHIVES COLONNADE

The classic frame belies the modernity of the problems and solutions of present day justice.



ARCHIVES LOOKING TOWARD CAPITOL

From the steps of the building which guards the past can be seen the building where the future is being made.

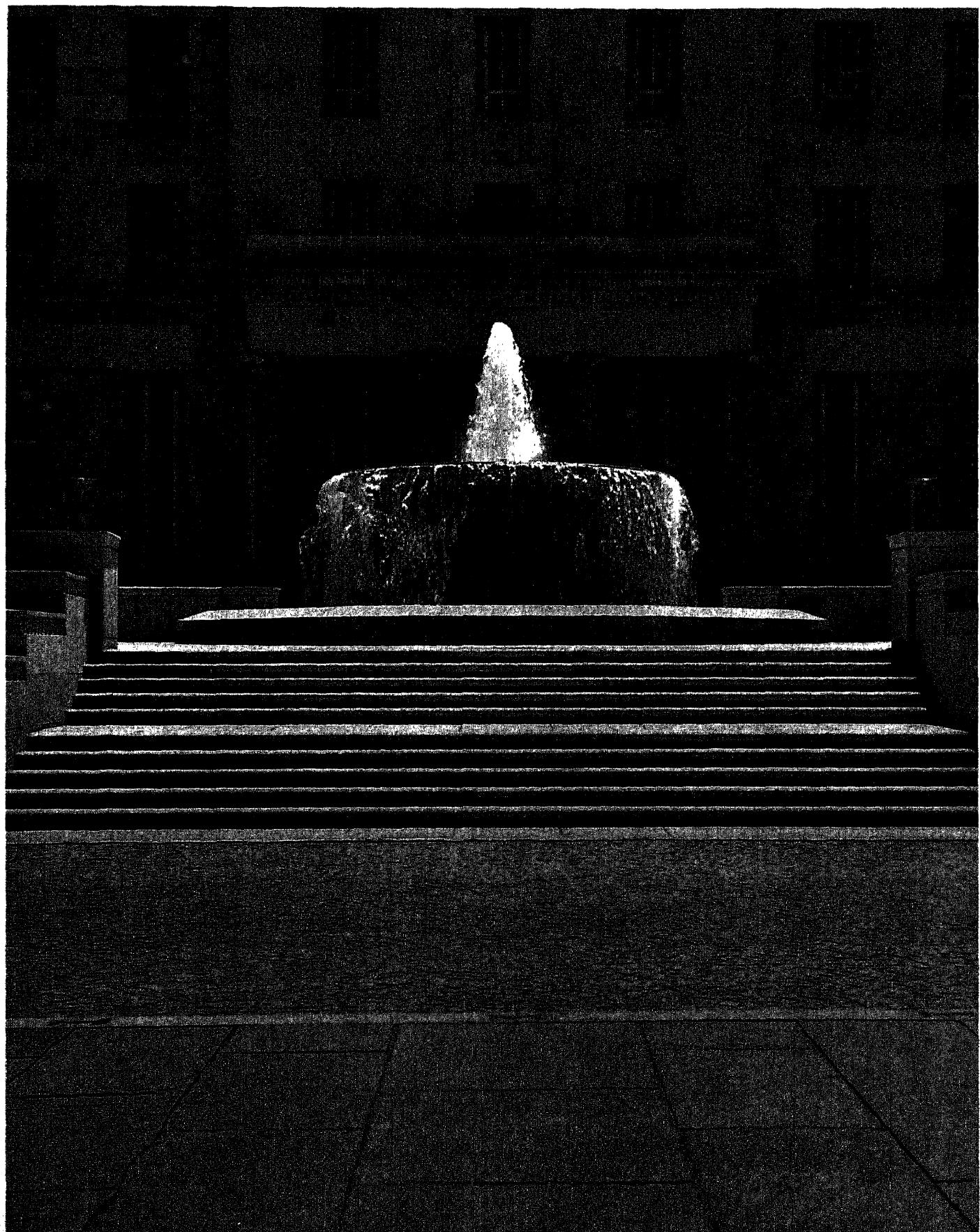


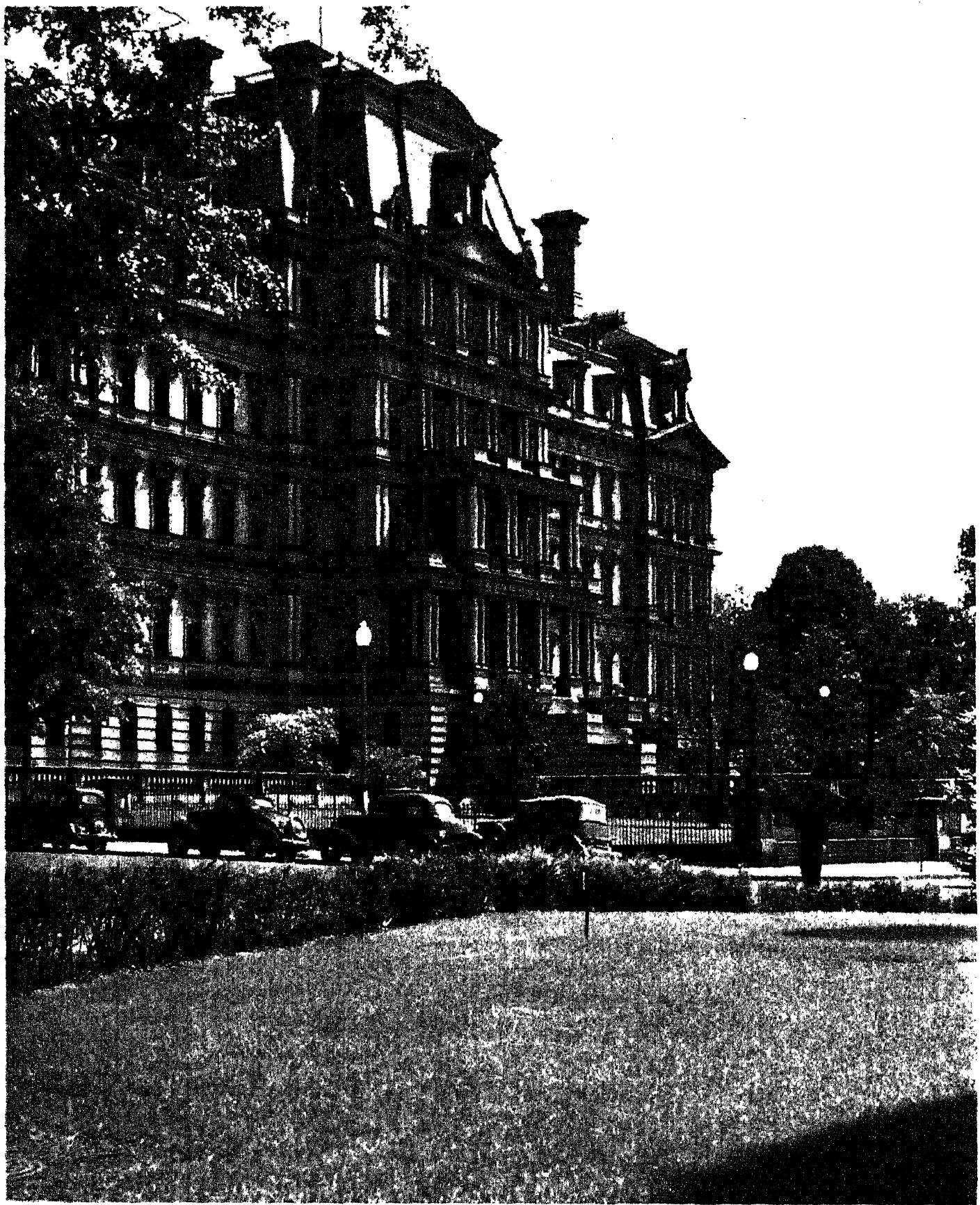
"TOMB"

In the Archives are stored the multifarious documentary records of the many branches of the Government.

This courtyard in the new Department of Justice Building shows an attention to pleasing design often lacking in older public buildings.

COURT OF JUSTICE



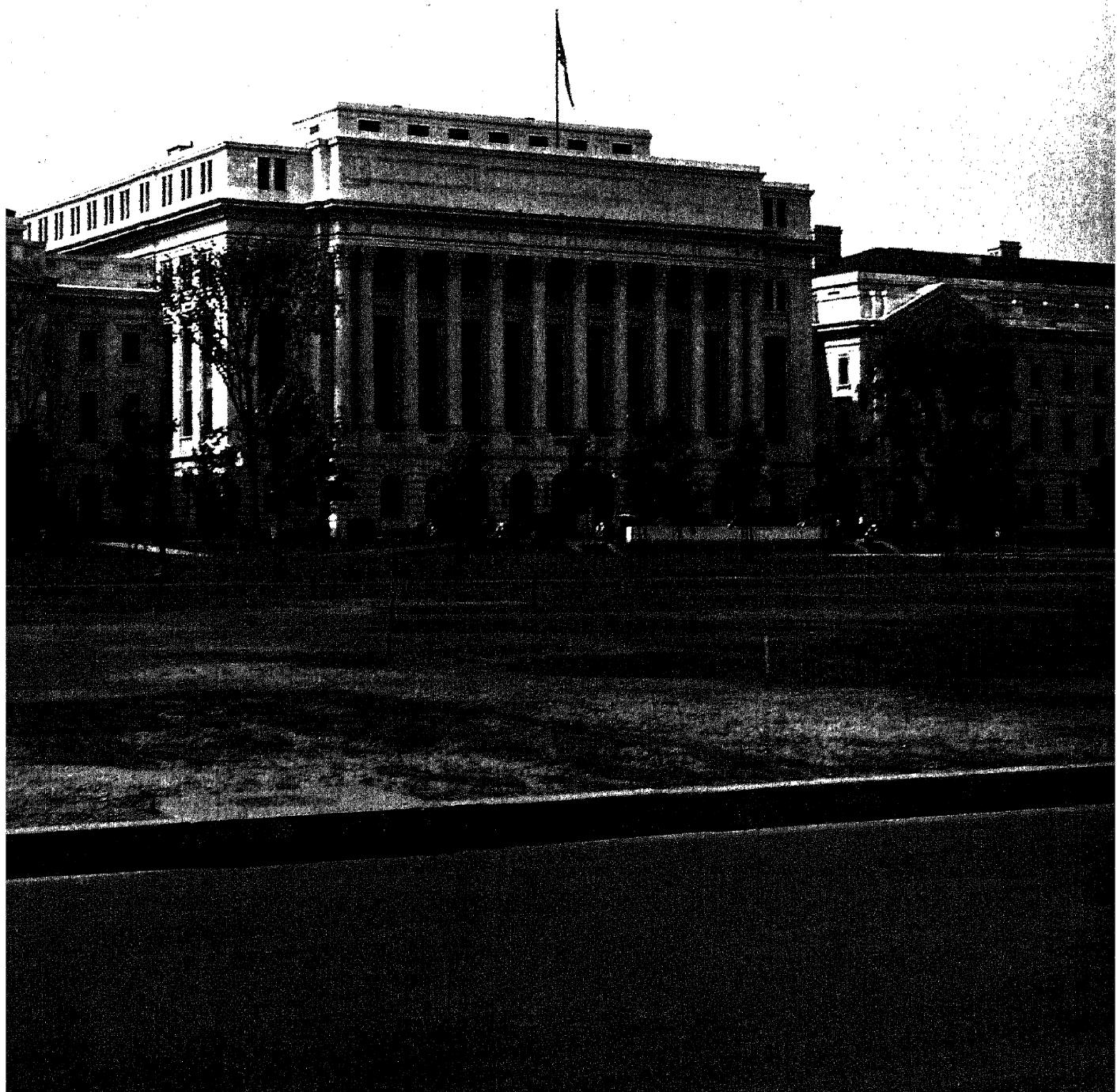


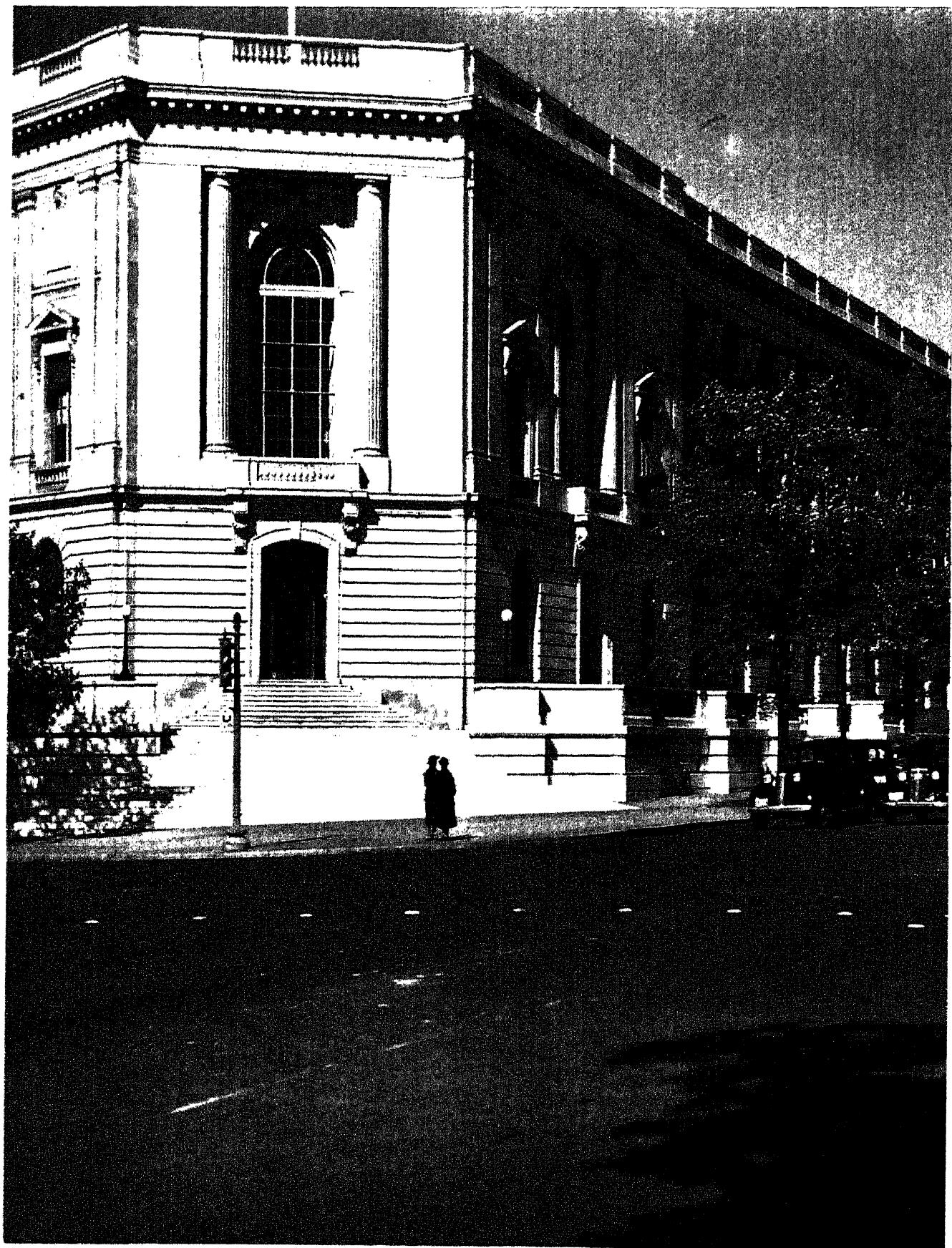
STAID AND STAYED!

Scornful of the rush of other departments to new offices, the Department of State remains in a building which expresses protocols, the elaborate language of diplomacy.

Established "to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture, in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word."

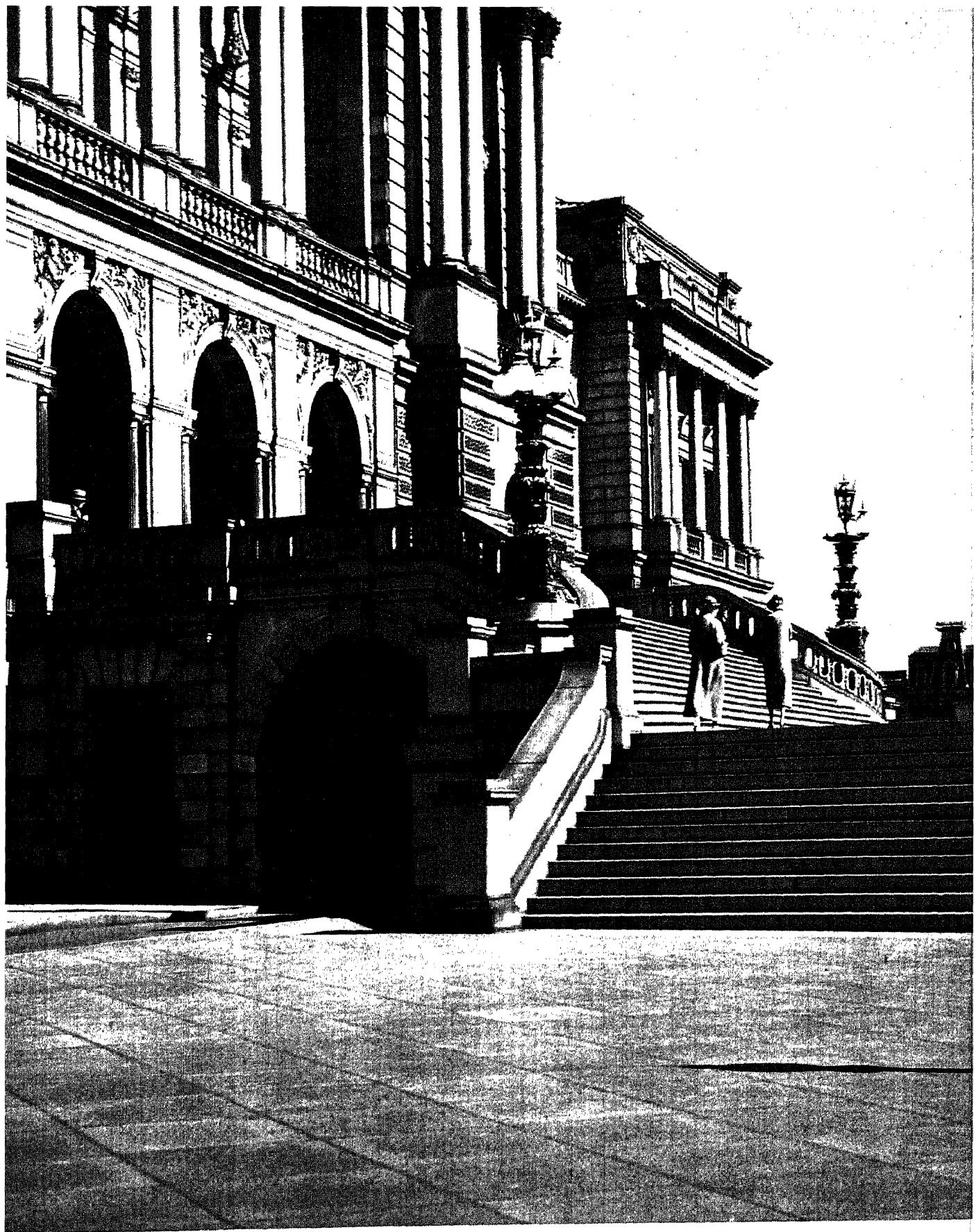
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE





SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, 96 MEN

"The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote."



LITERA SCRIPTA MANET

The Library of Congress has almost five million books and pamphlets, a large part due to the requirement that two copies of every copyrighted work be deposited here. The library was completed in 1897.

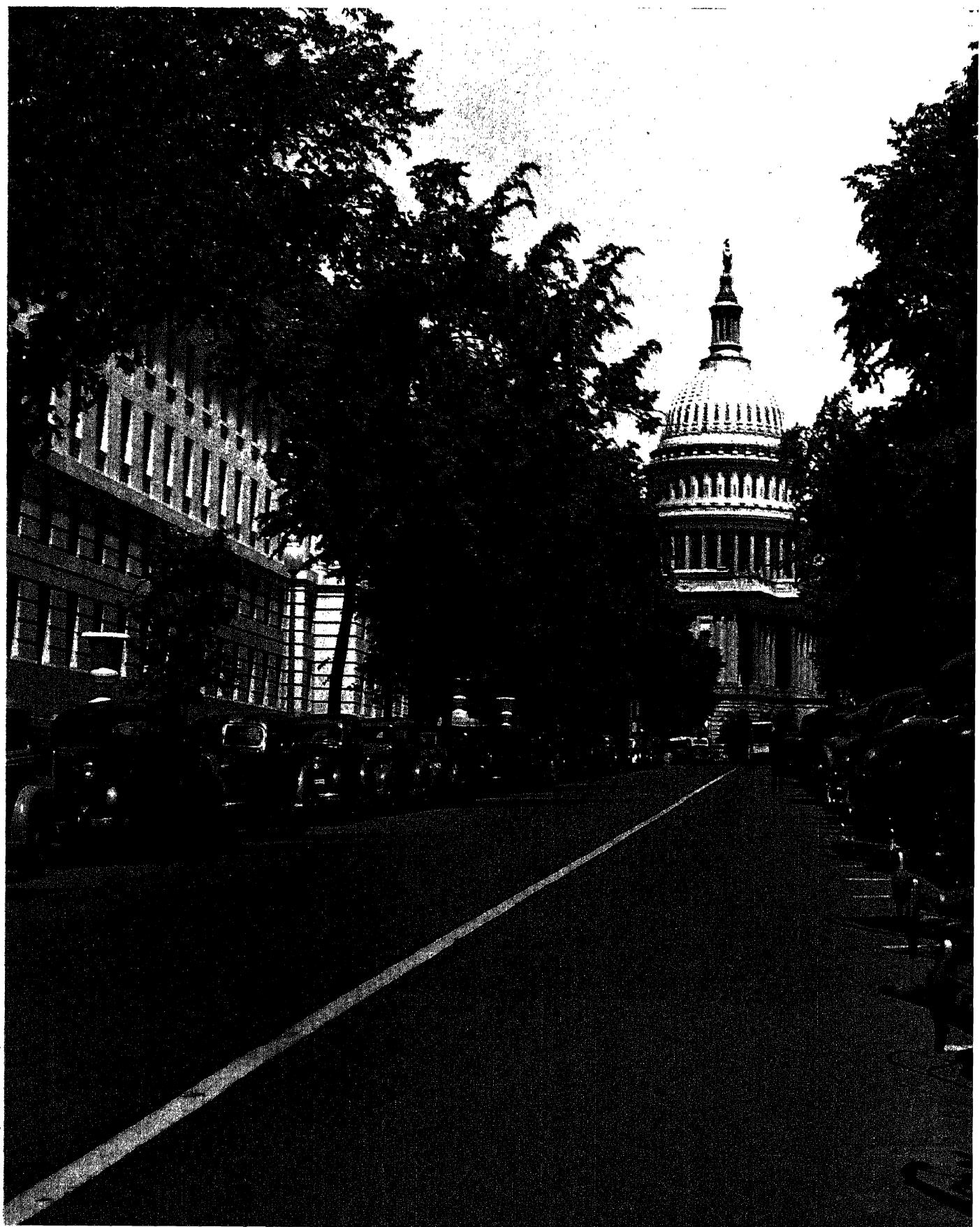


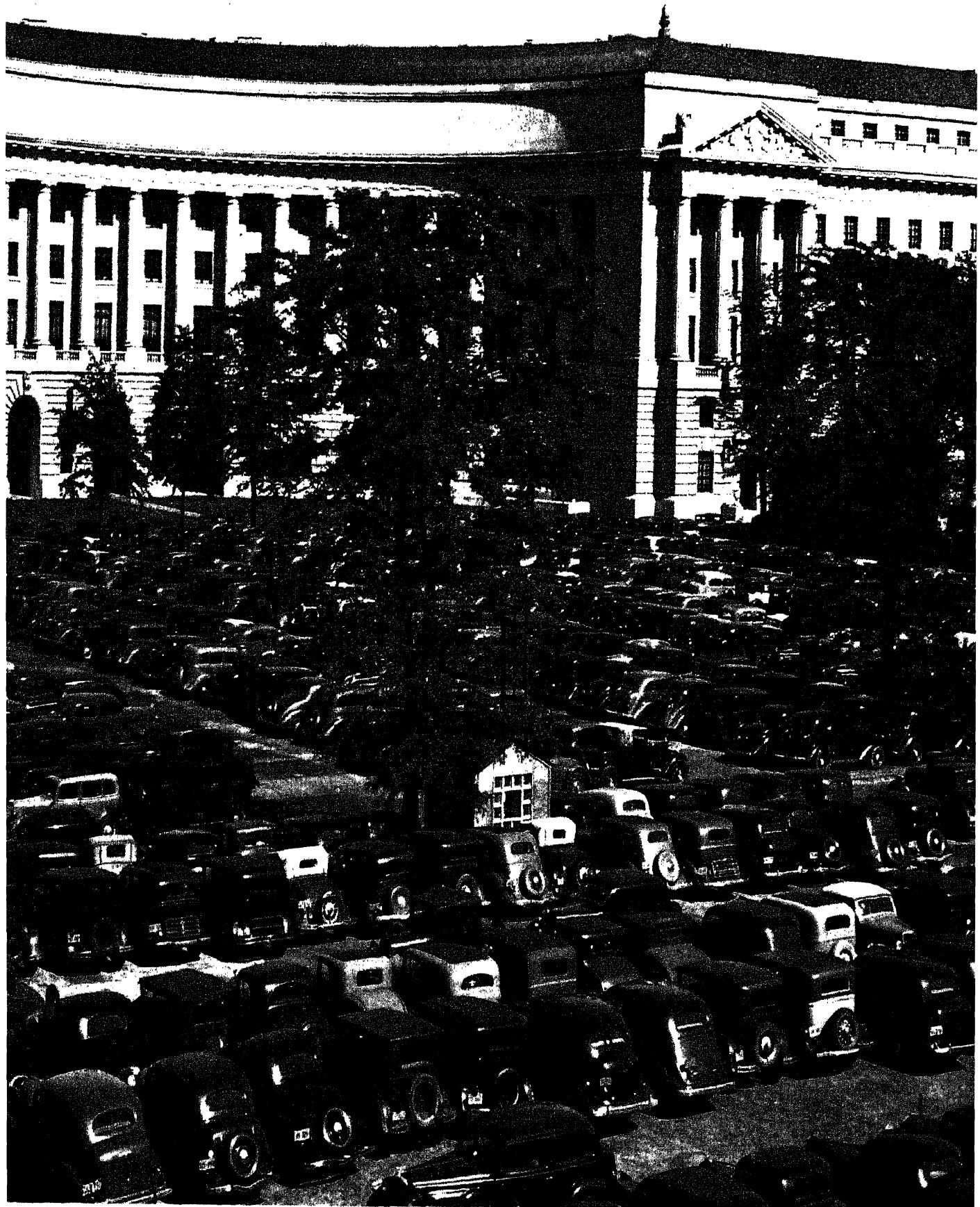
TERRACE OF THE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

Fit for a figure in a toga, this walk actually sees men and women in the latest attire only.

"Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective members, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed."

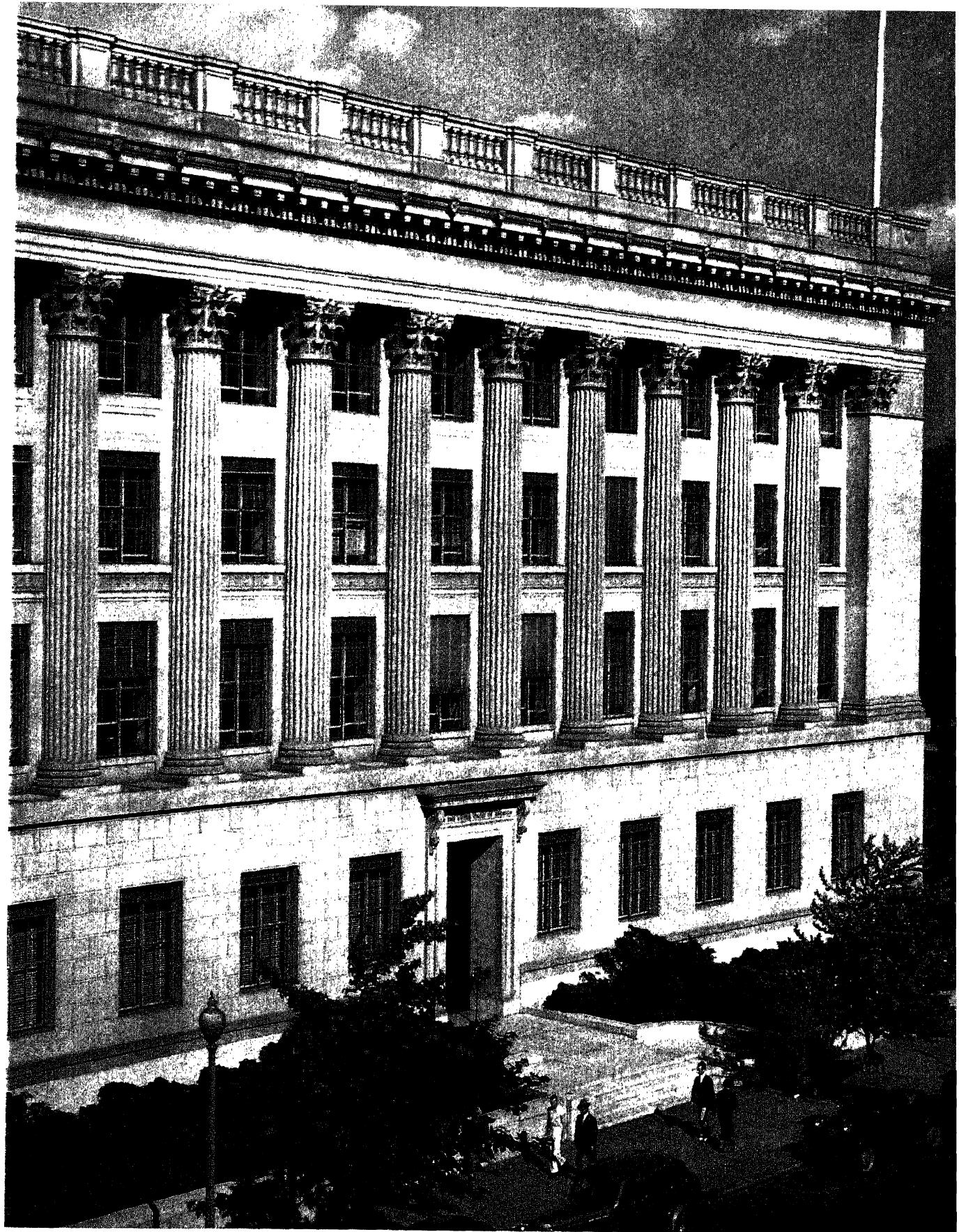
455 MEN





THE BOSSSES ARE BUSY!

From eight-thirty to nine in the morning the harried government worker seeks a place to park. At four-thirty in the afternoon comes the great unscrambling.

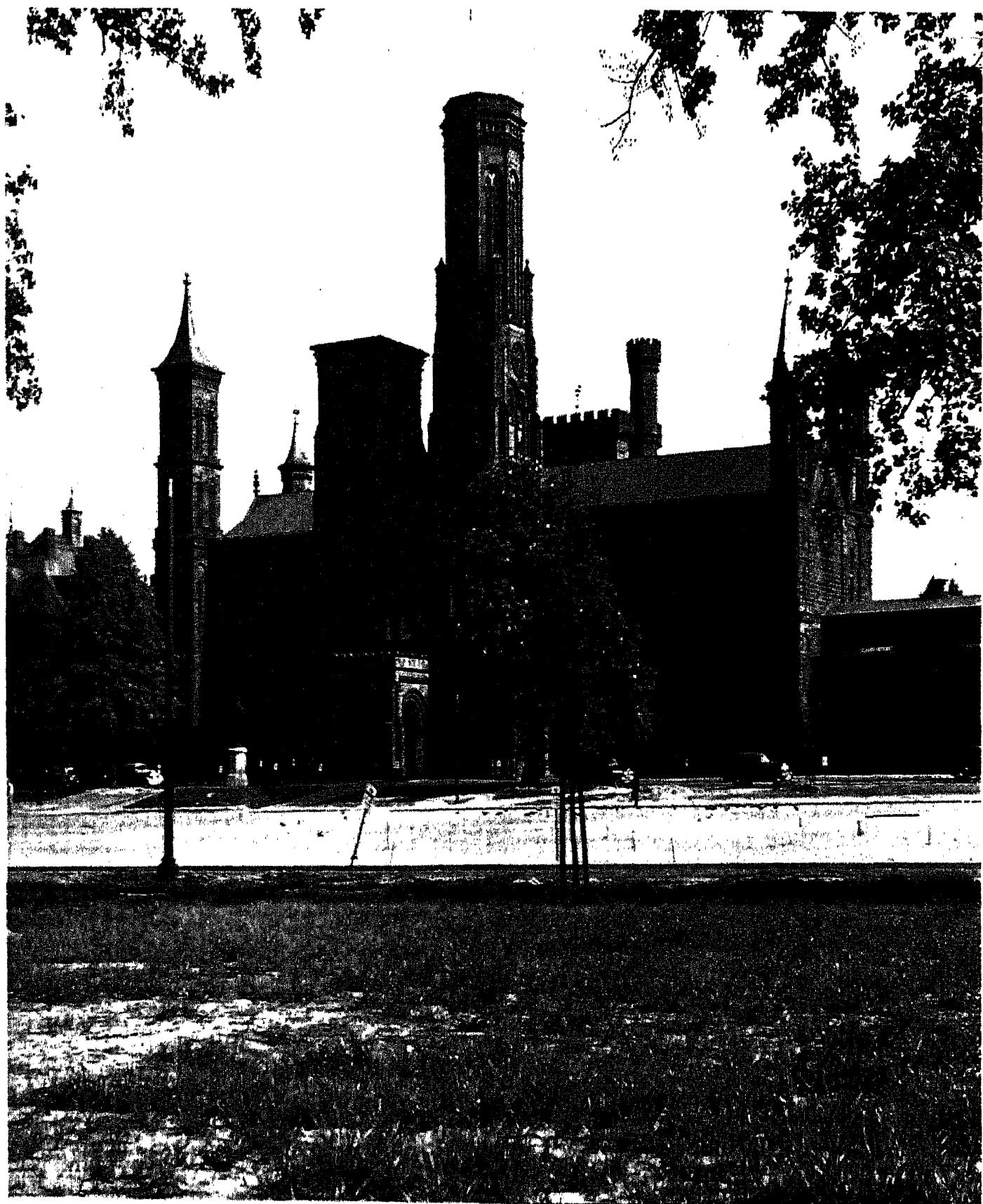


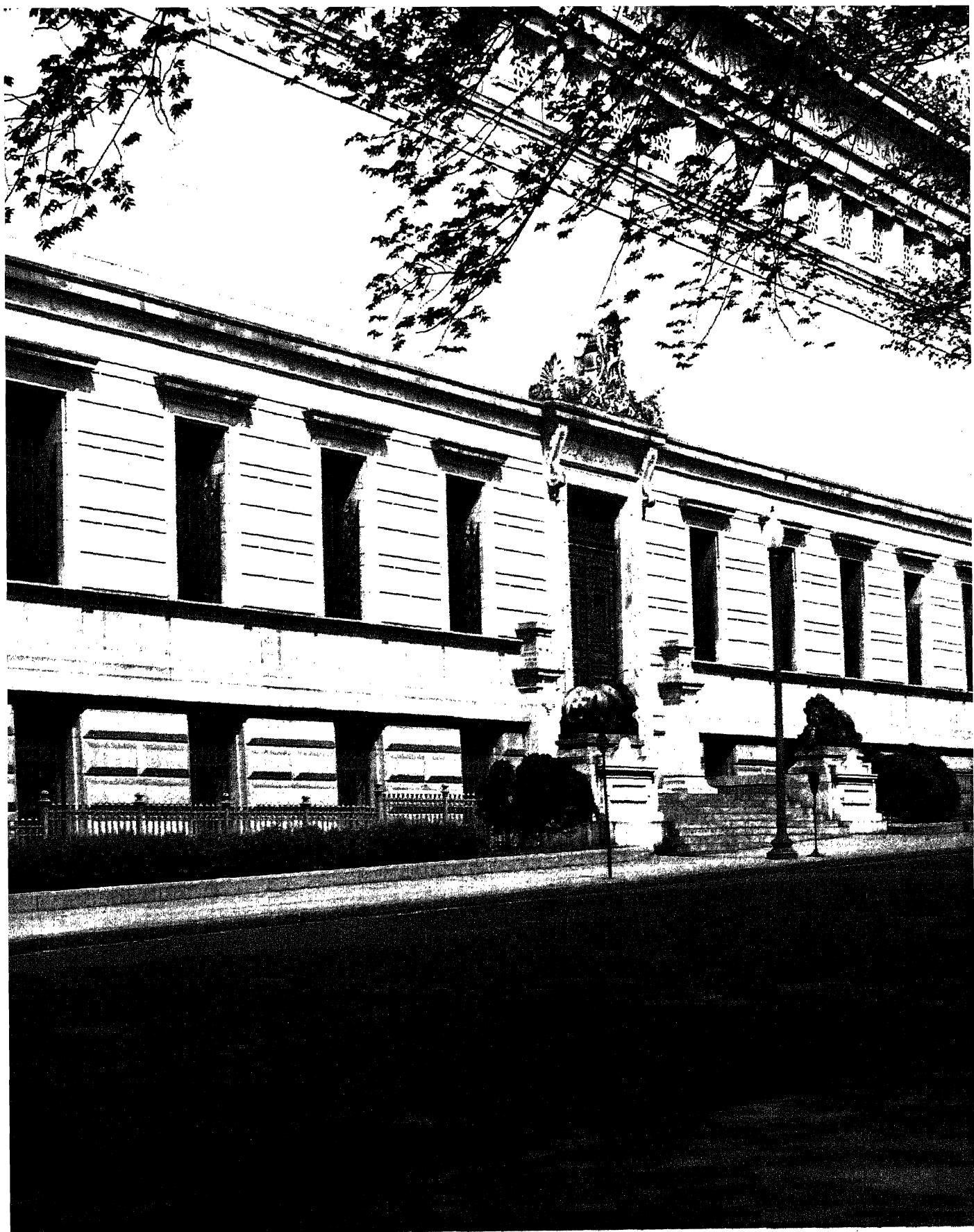
GENTLEMAN'S GENTLEMEN

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America deals with the national problems of its member chambers of commerce and trade associations, as they in turn deal with the local problems of members.

Founded by Congress in 1846 in accordance with the will of James Smithson, an Englishman,
this museum is the only privately supported institution of which the government is trustee.

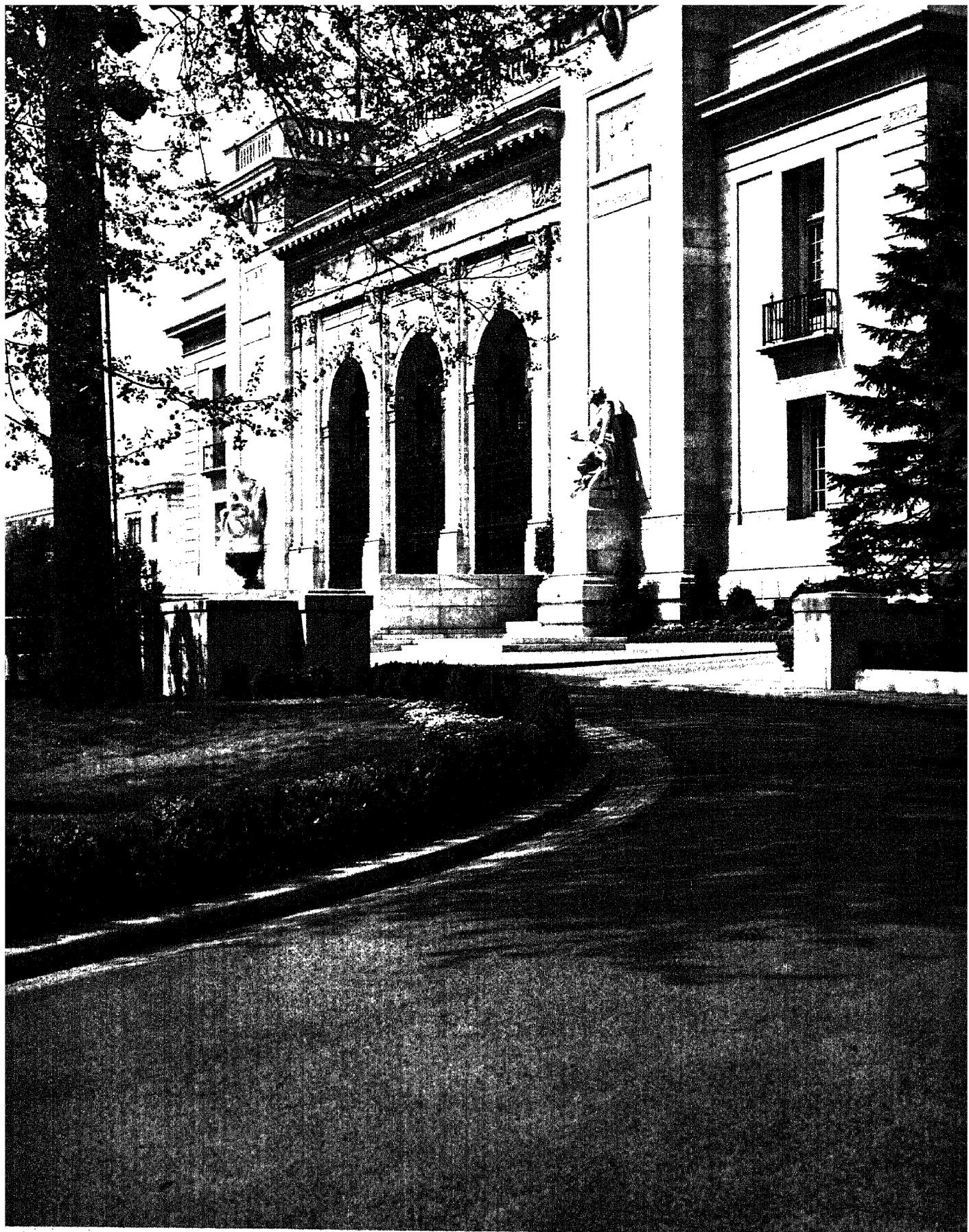
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION





CORCORAN ART GALLERY

Founded and endowed by William W. Corcoran in 1869, this museum houses a group of portraits, paintings and casts of classic and Renaissance statuary, together with objects d'art of the late Senator Clark.

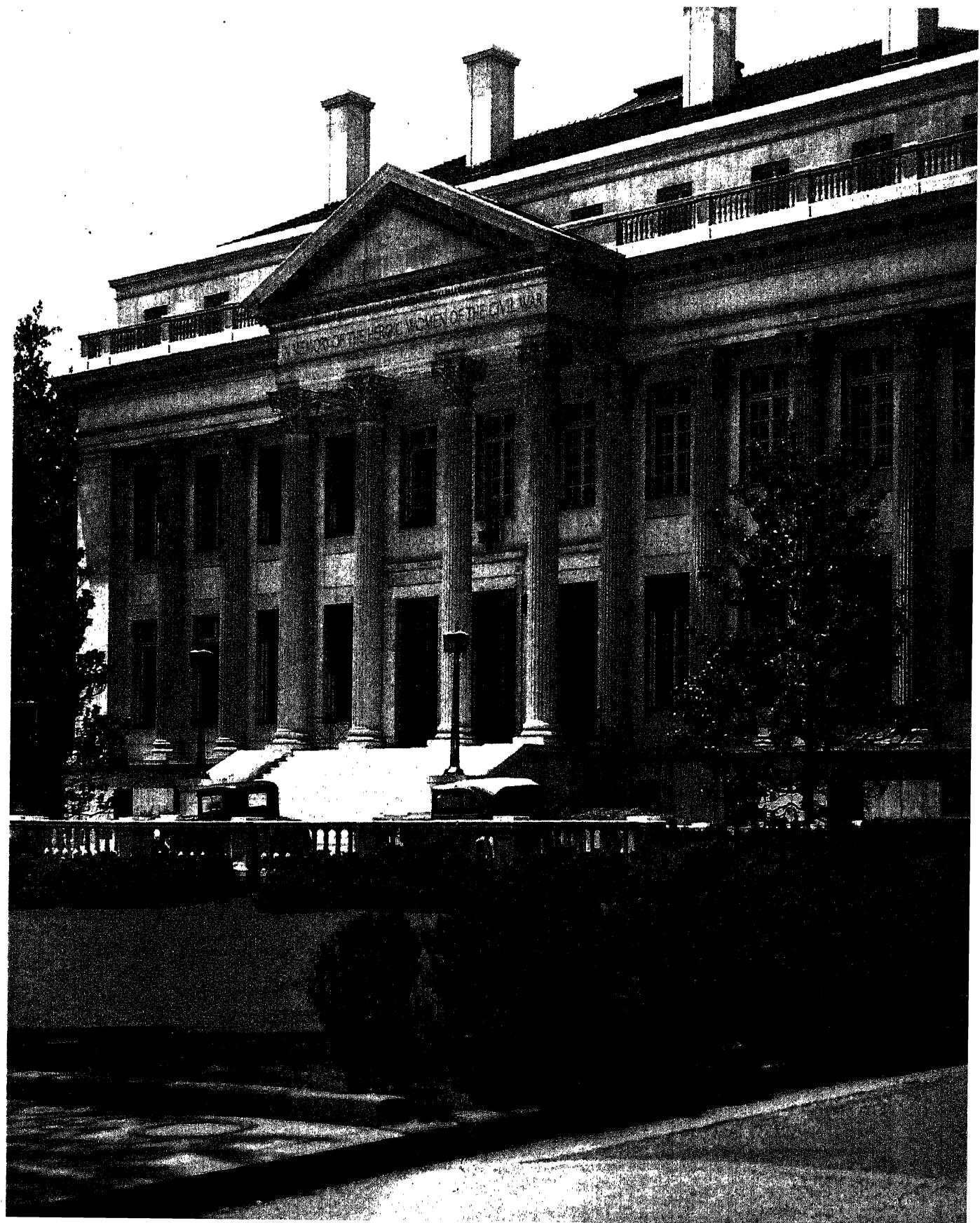


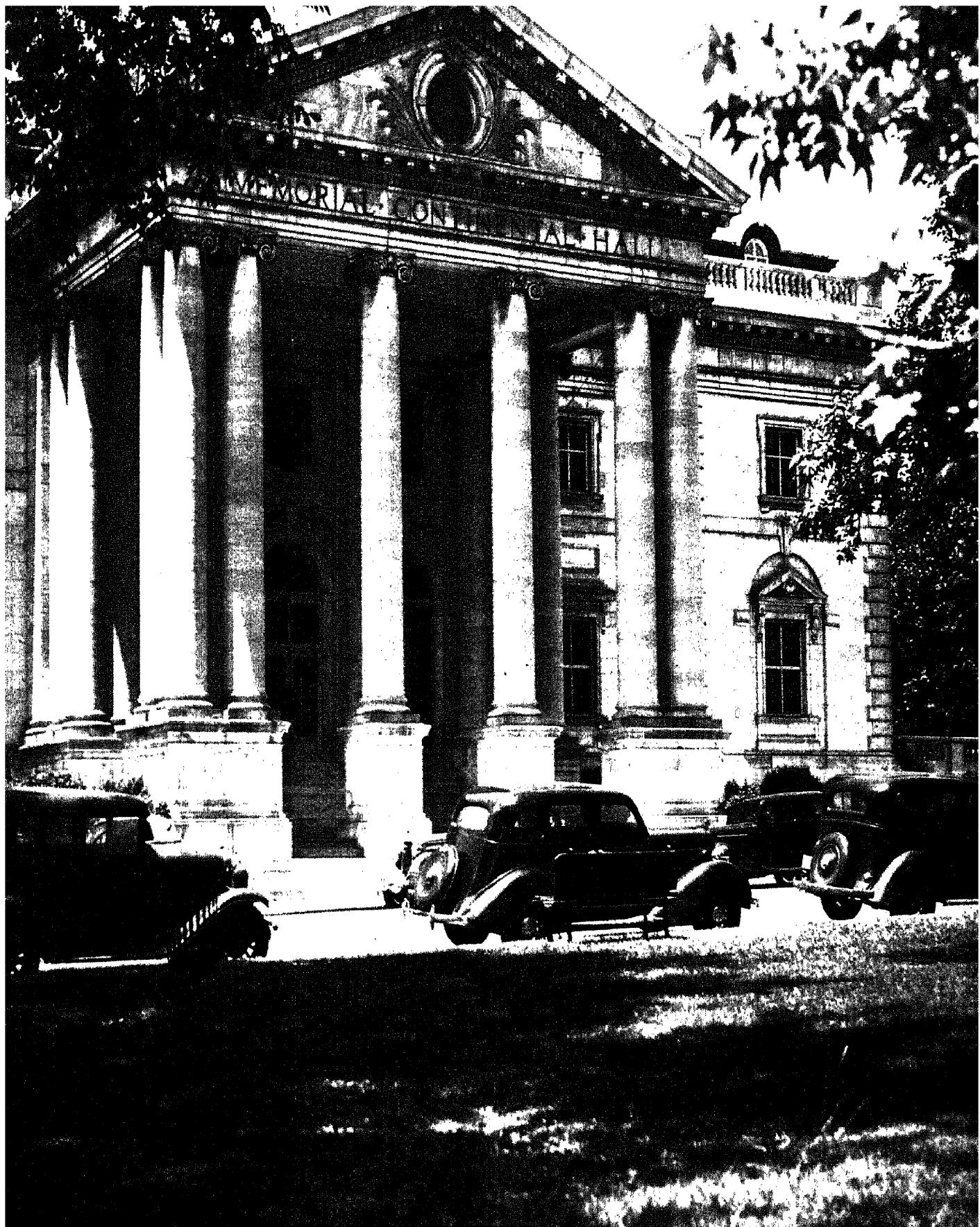
PAN-AMERICAN UNION

Dedicated to the promotion of friendly relations between the peoples of the Americas.

No matter in what part of the world disaster strikes,
the Red Cross is there with aid and sustenance.

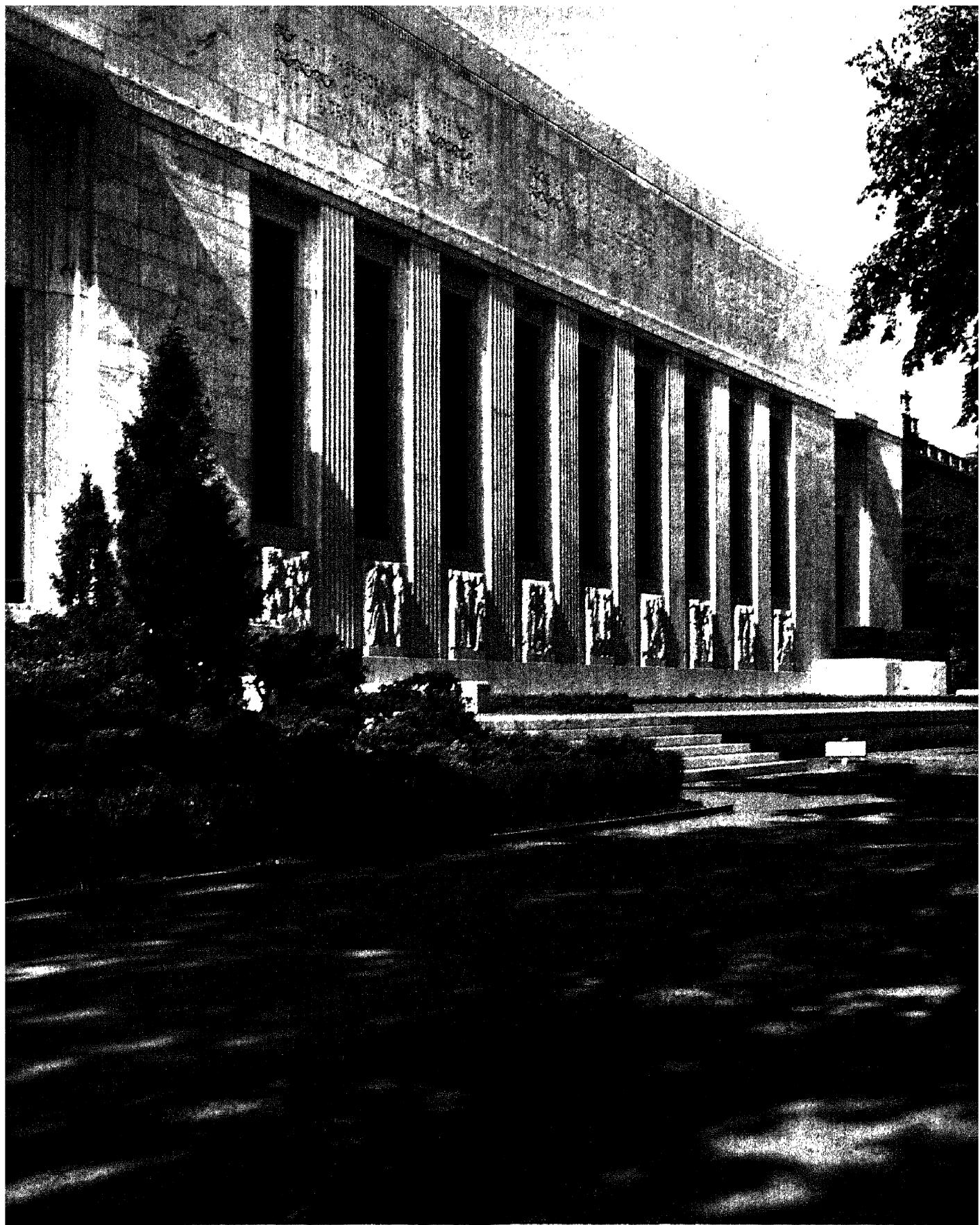
WOMEN WITH LAMPS





MEMORIAL CONTINENTAL HALL

The D. A. R. perpetuates the ideals of their Revolutionary ancestors as a patriotic and charitable organization.

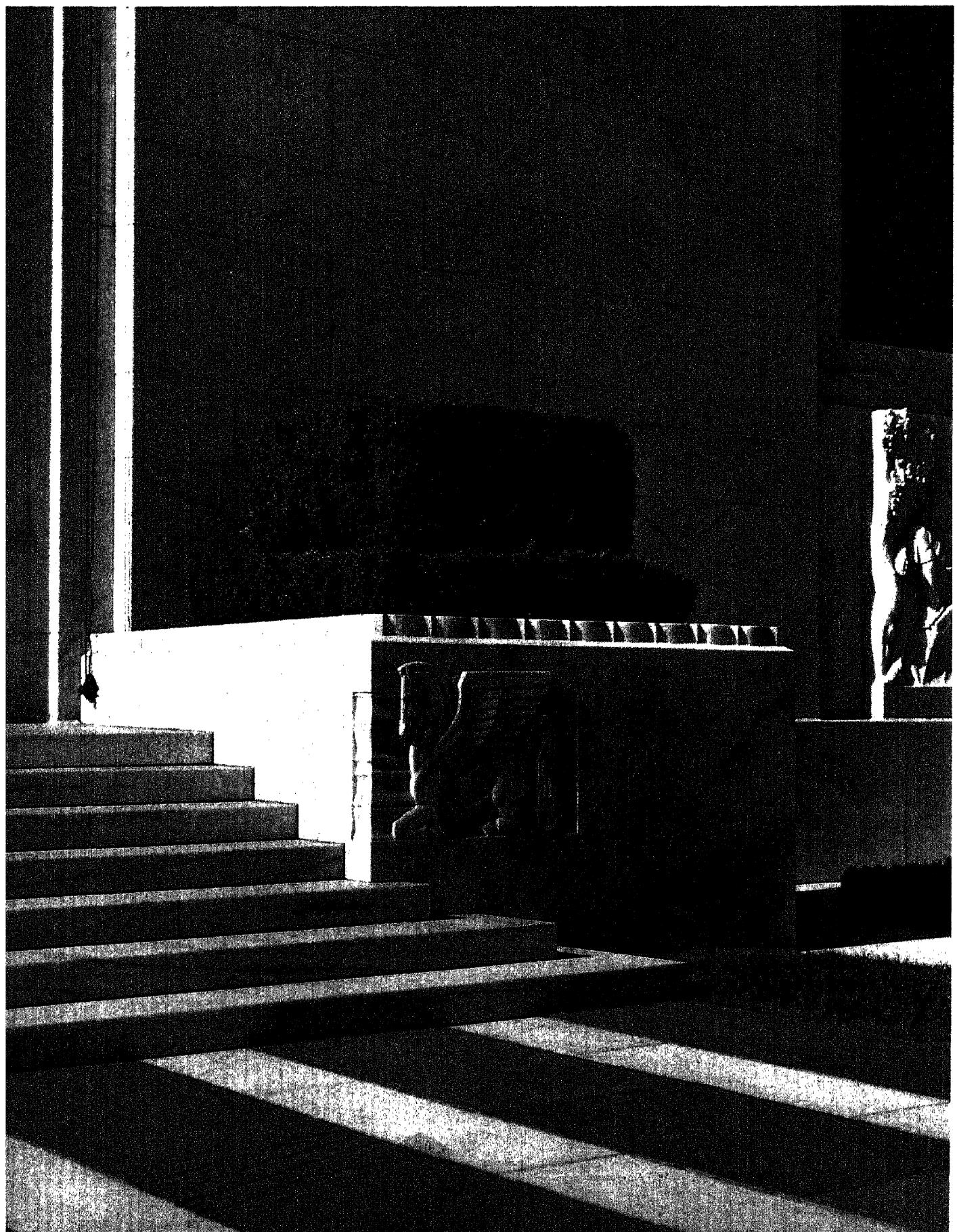


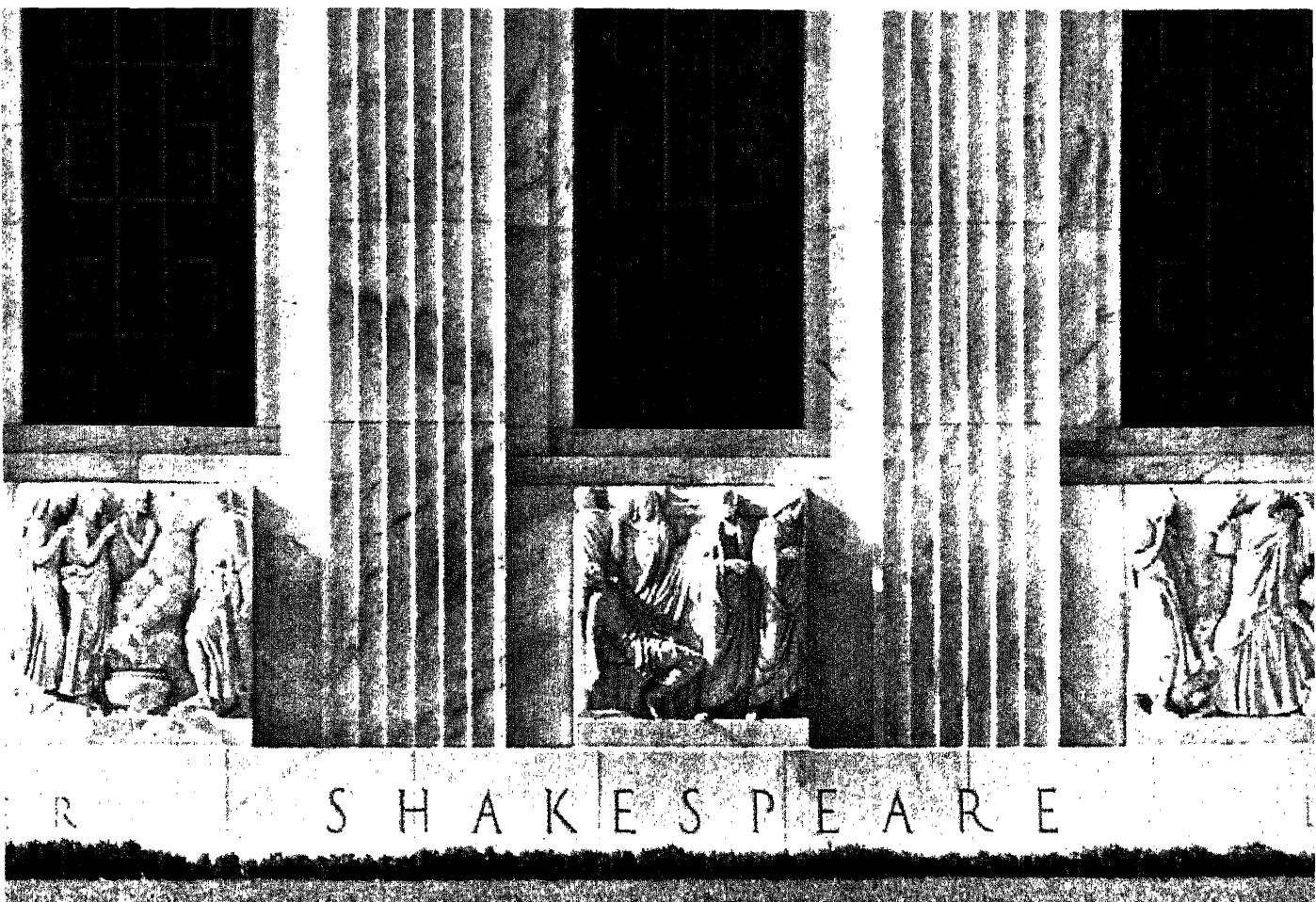
FOLGER LIBRARY

Modernity sheathes an interior of
Tudor Pageantry and Shakespeareana.

Pegasus, the winged horse of poetry, kneels.

ENTRANCE TO FOLGER LIBRARY





DETAIL OF SCULPTURE

Caught in stone are the characters known throughout the civilized world.

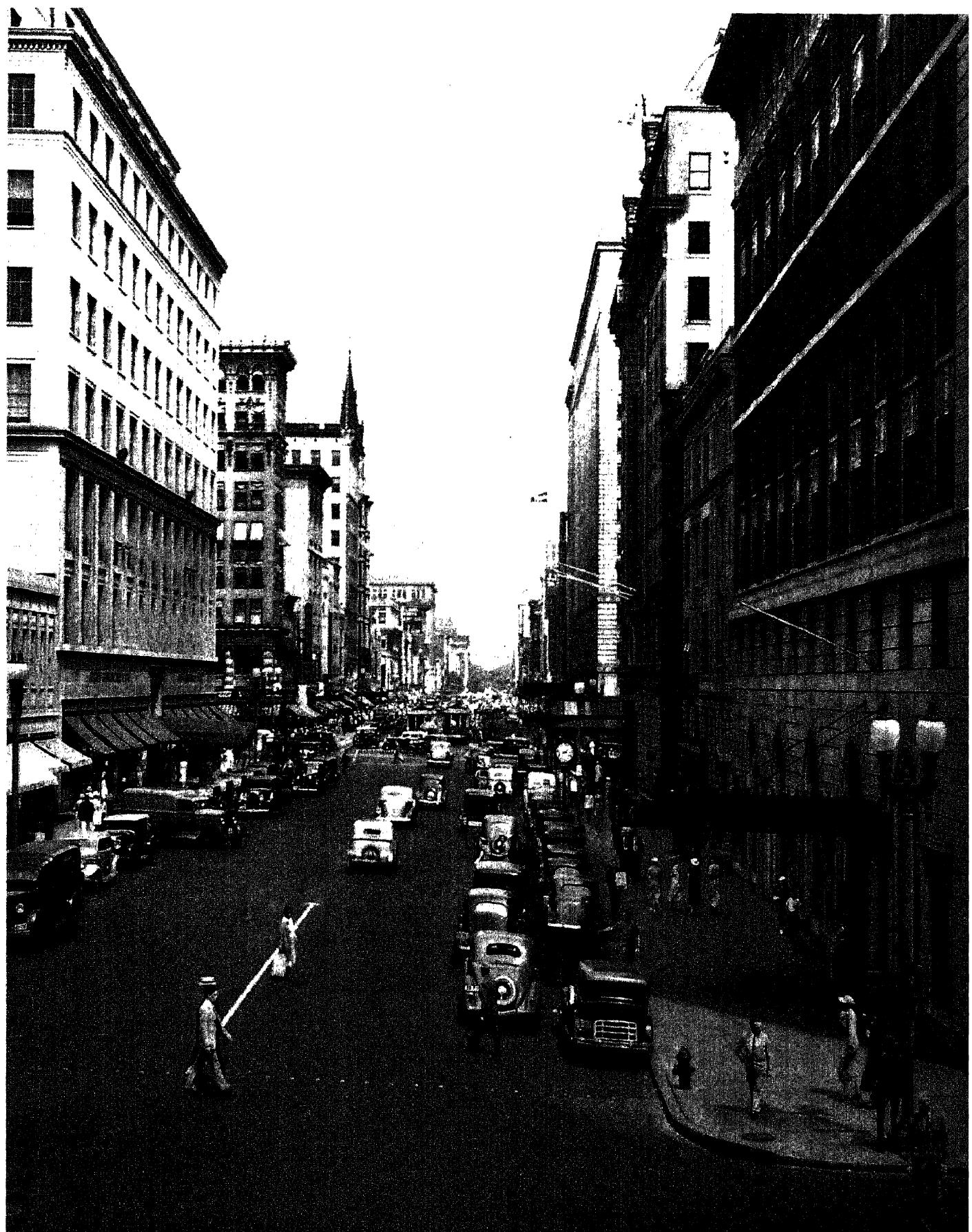


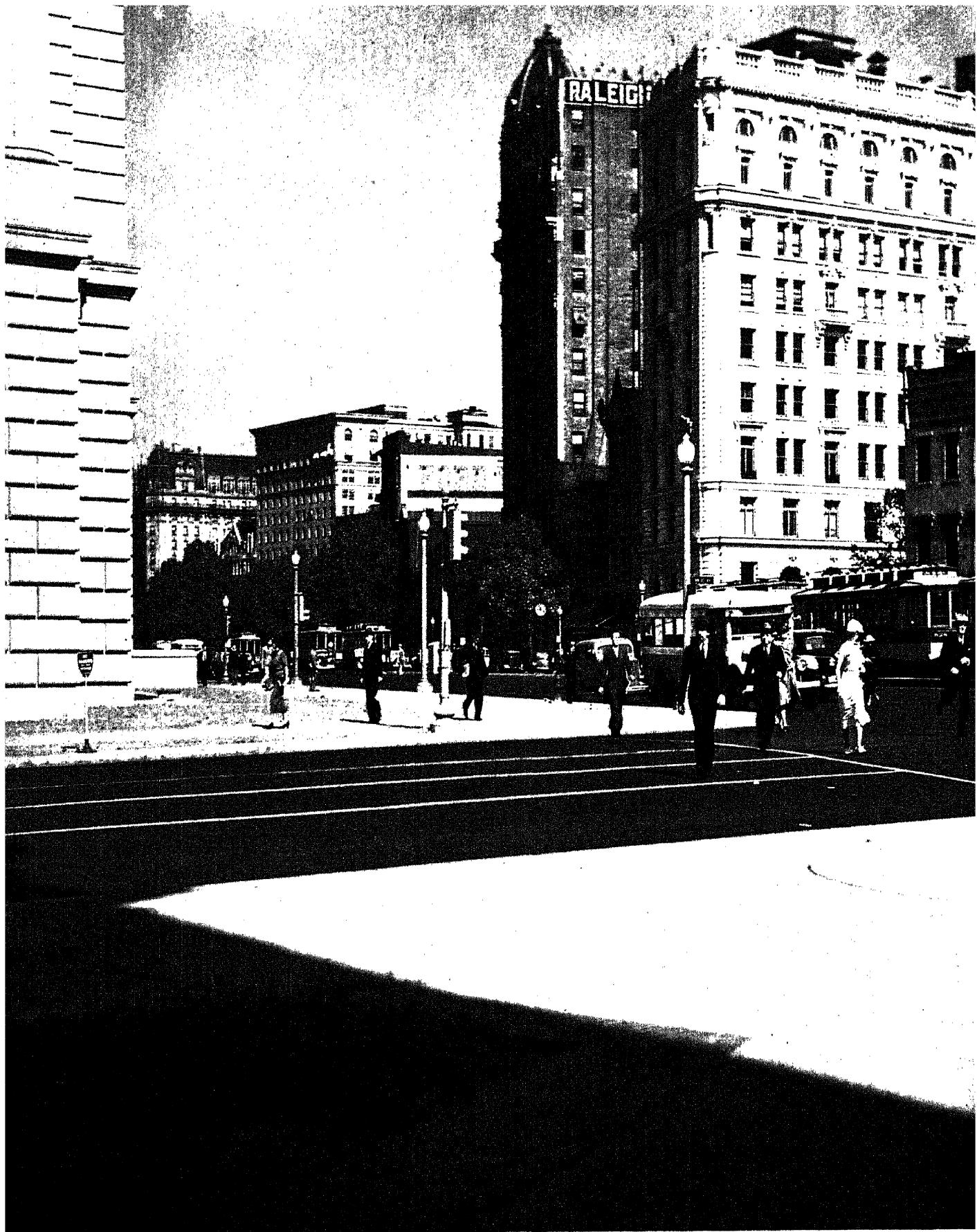
THE PRINTING PRESS

The Bureau of Engraving turns out over six hundred million notes a year and more than thirteen billion postage stamps.

Though not an industrial city, many and varied stores are to be found near the great hotels and government buildings.

F STREET





PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Only recent evolution has changed Pennsylvania Avenue from a street of small stores to one of monumental government buildings and dignified offices.



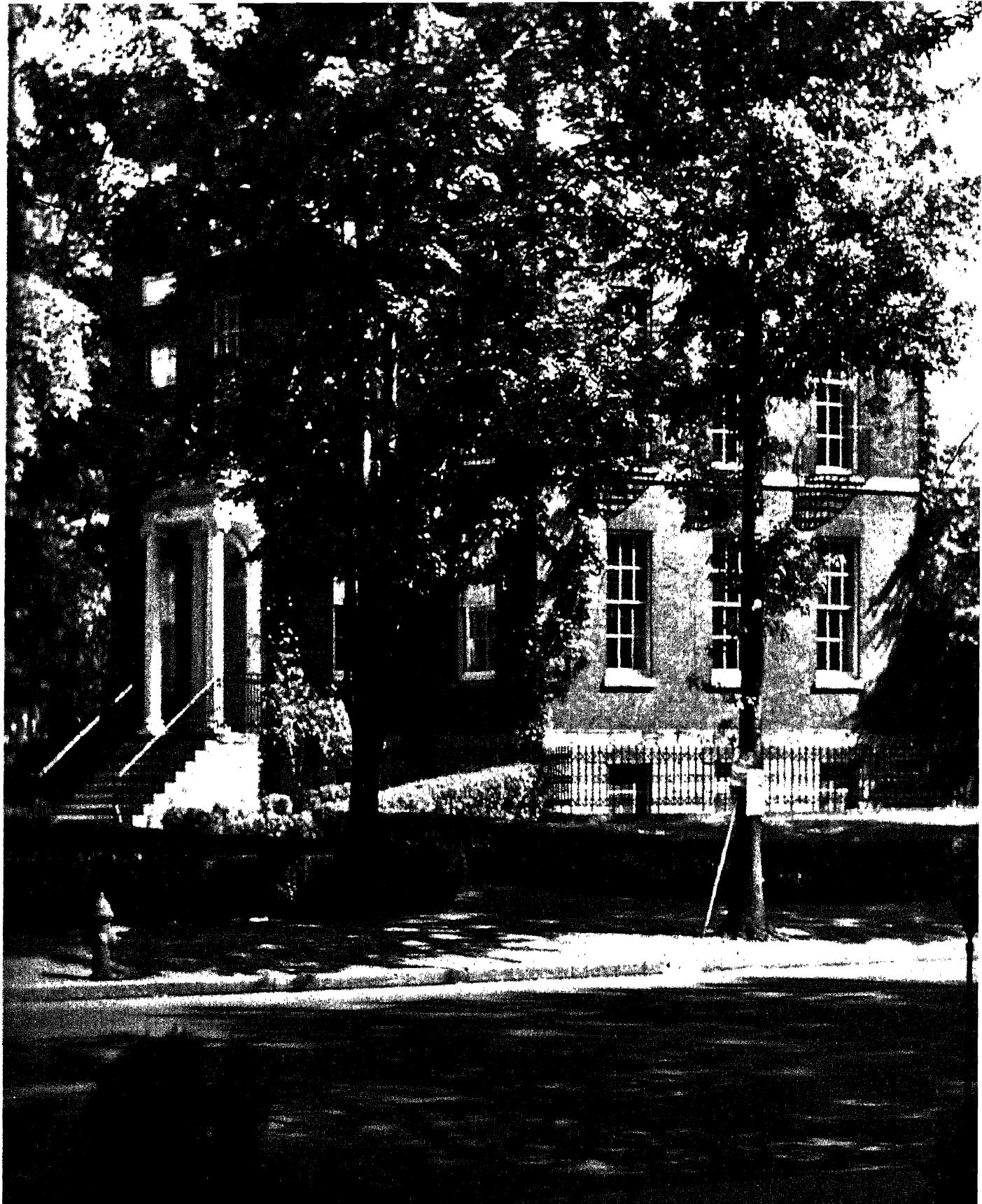
WILLARD HOTEL

Through the entire Spring the casual visitor will find to his dismay that every room of the great hotels of the capital have been reserved for national conventions.

Politicians and statesmen formerly had large private establishments, now they take suites in the hotels about the city.

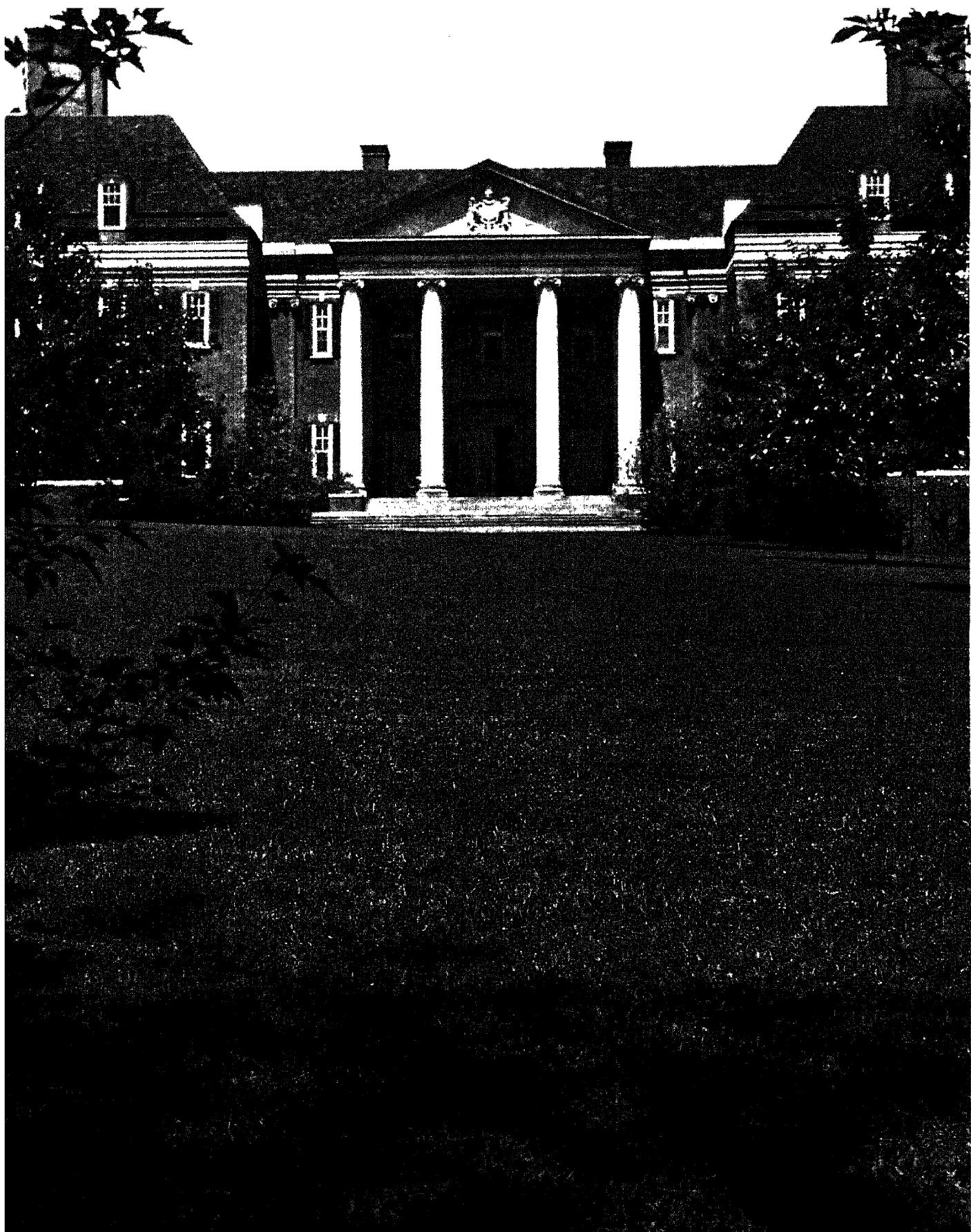
MAYFLOWER HOTEL





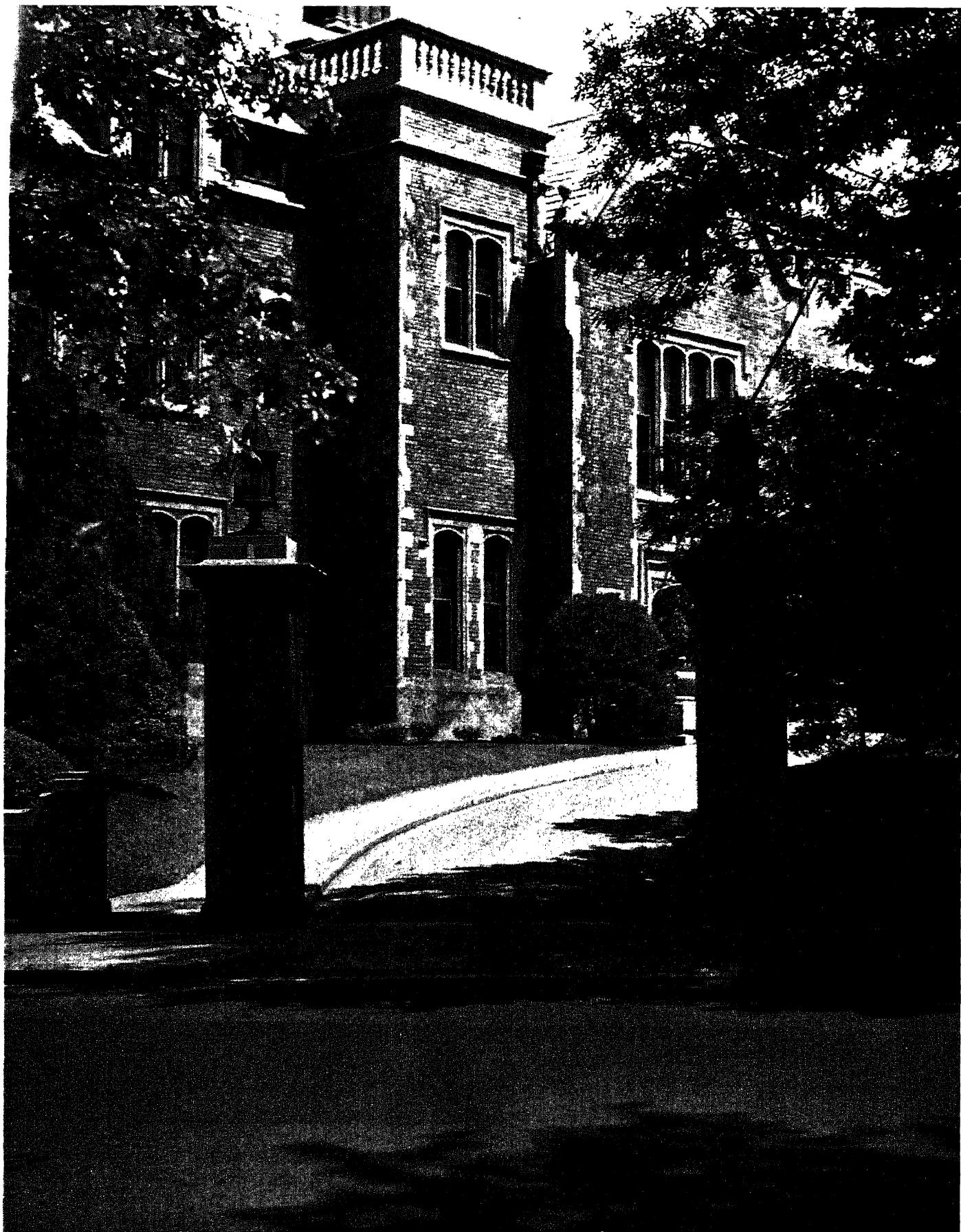
THE OCTAGON

Completed in 1800 by Col. John Tayloe, this residence, used by Madison when President and where he signed the Treaty of Ghent, is now headquarters of the American Institute of Architects.



BRITISH EMBASSY

His Excellency the Ambassador of Great Britain
lives out Massachusetts Avenue near the Cathedral.



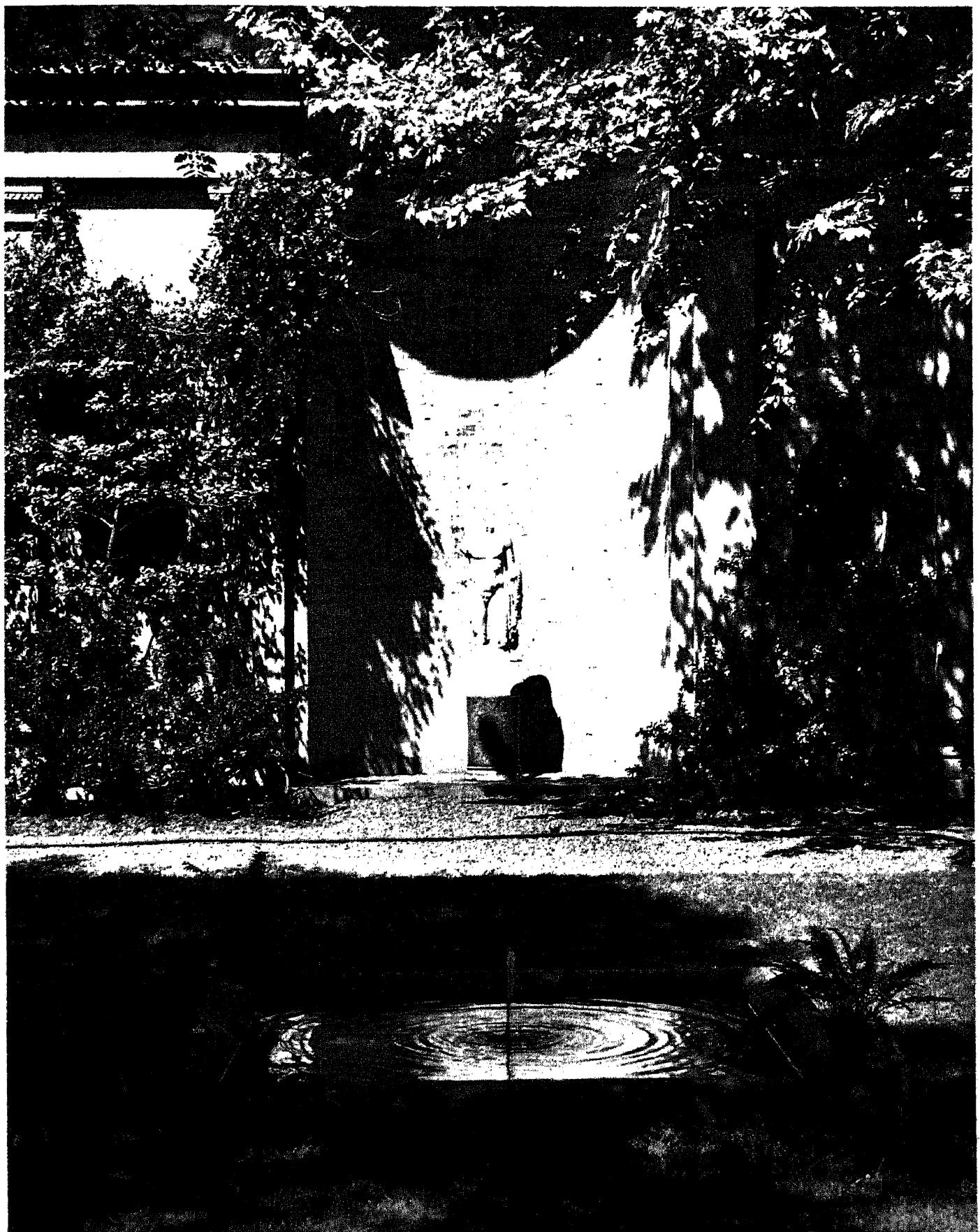
FRENCH EMBASSY

The Embassy where His Excellency the Ambassador from the French Republic resides, was formerly the residence of a famous engineer, John Hays Hammond.



EMBASSY ROW

The Italian Embassy is situated on that portion of Sixteenth Street known as "Embassy Row," which terminates just beyond at Columbia Road, where can be seen the church of the Latter Day Saints.

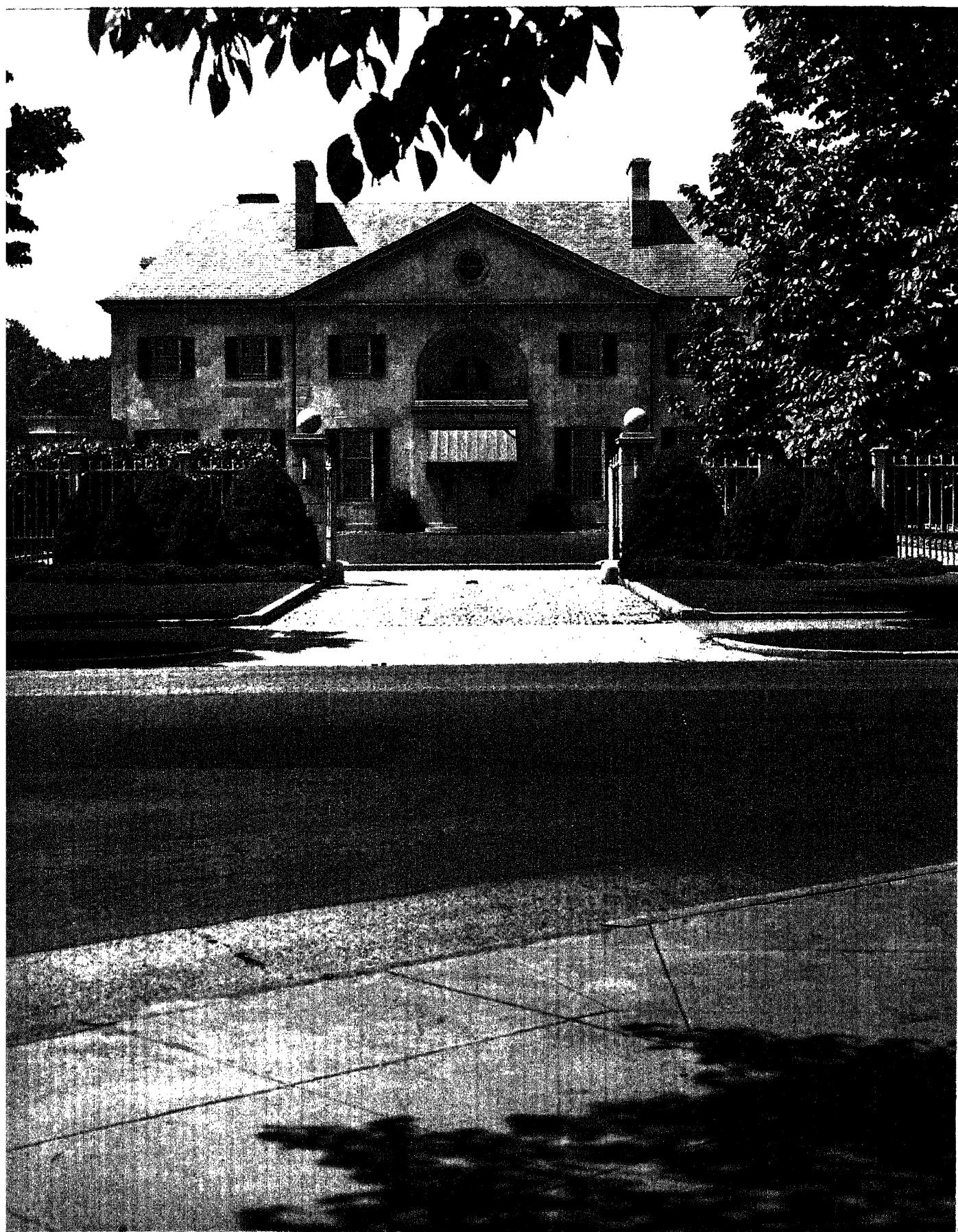


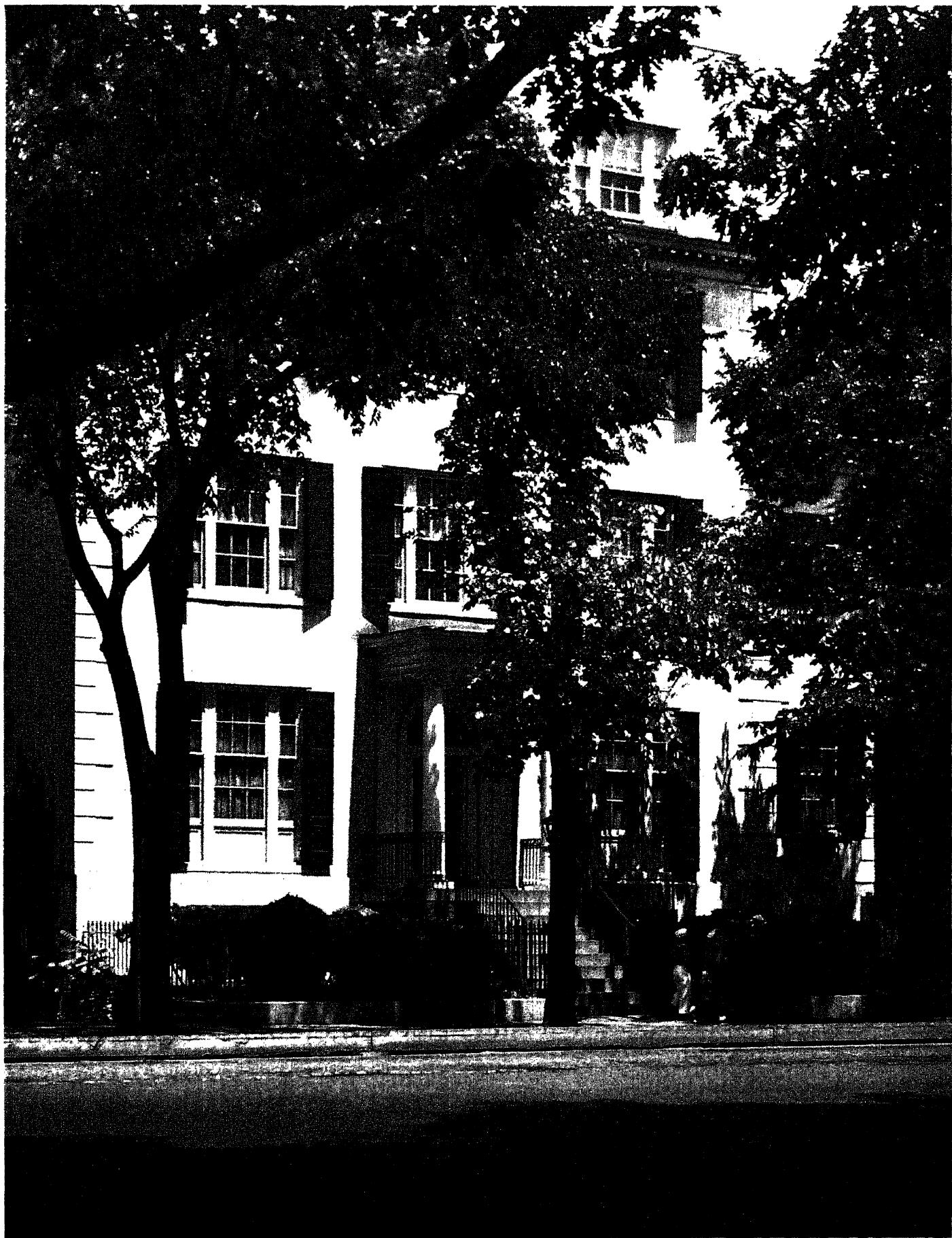
FOREIGN SOIL

This charming garden is within the residence of
His Excellency the Royal Italian Ambassador.

On Massachusetts Avenue is the residence
of His Excellency the Japanese Ambassador.

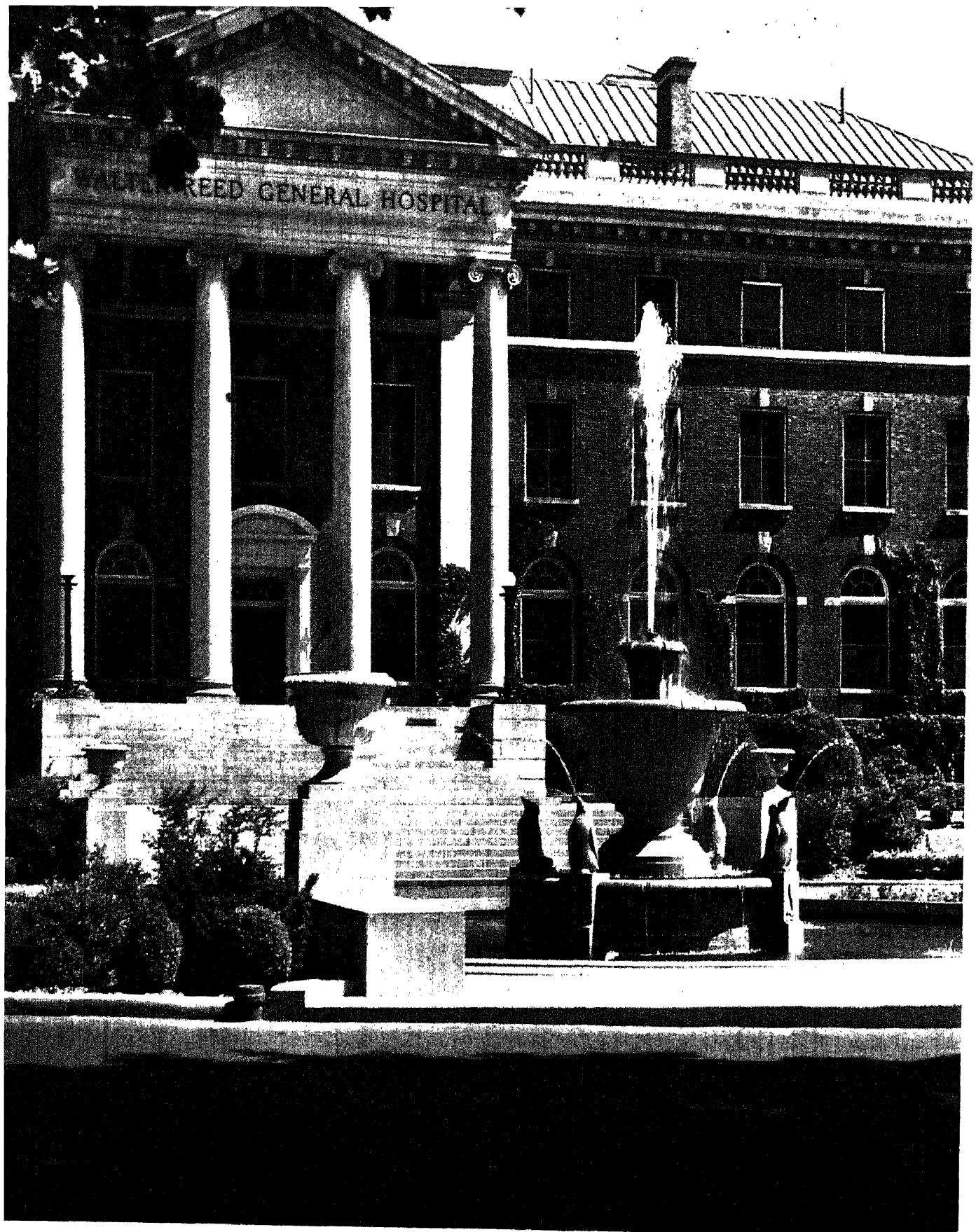
JAPANESE EMBASSY





BLAIR HOUSE

The old Colonial houses, with their patches of garden, are relics of bygone days.



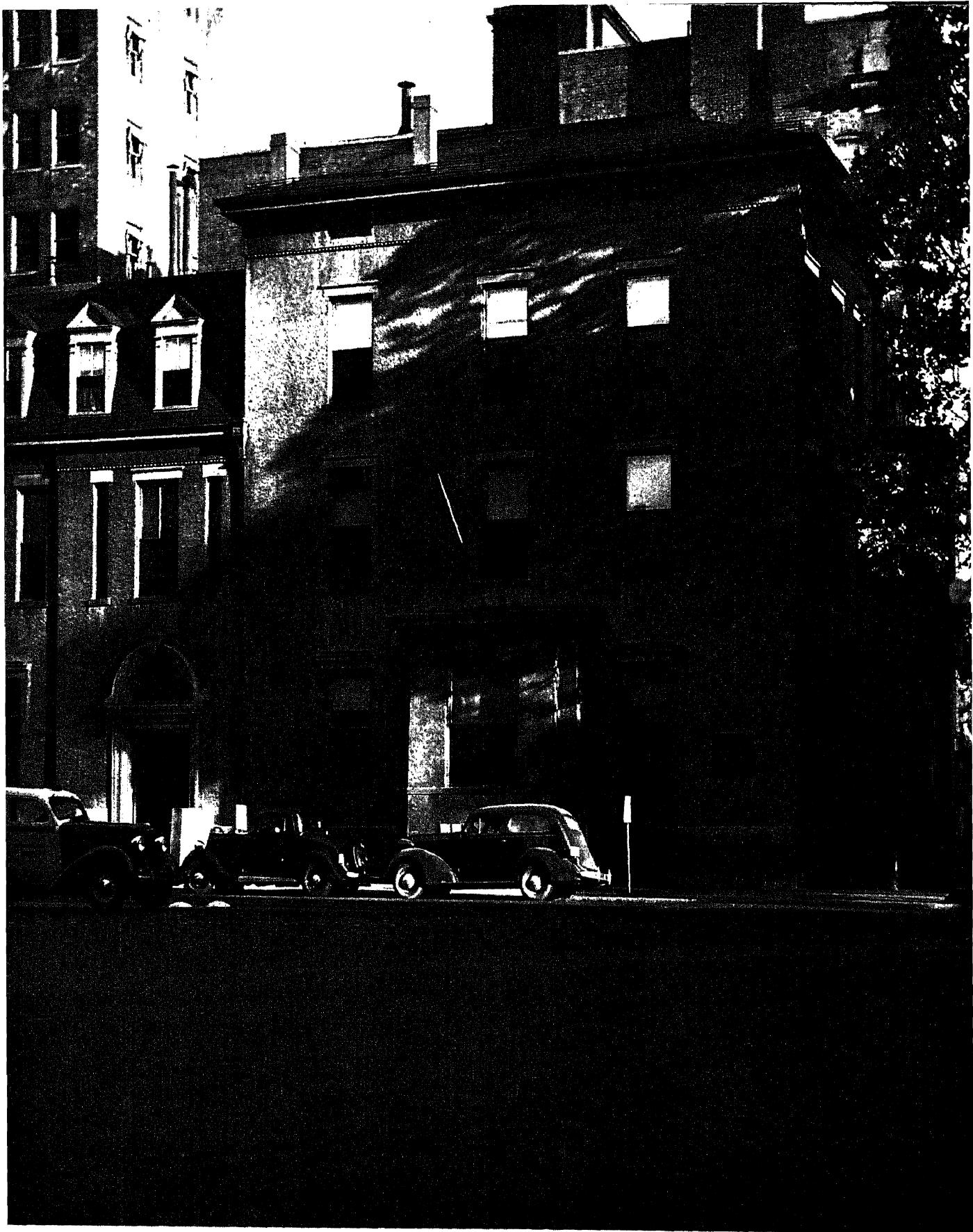
WALTER REED HOSPITAL

In spacious grounds is situated the great Army hospital named in honor of the man who conquered yellow fever.



"GRIEF"

Memorial to Mrs. Henry Adams in Rock Creek Cemetery.

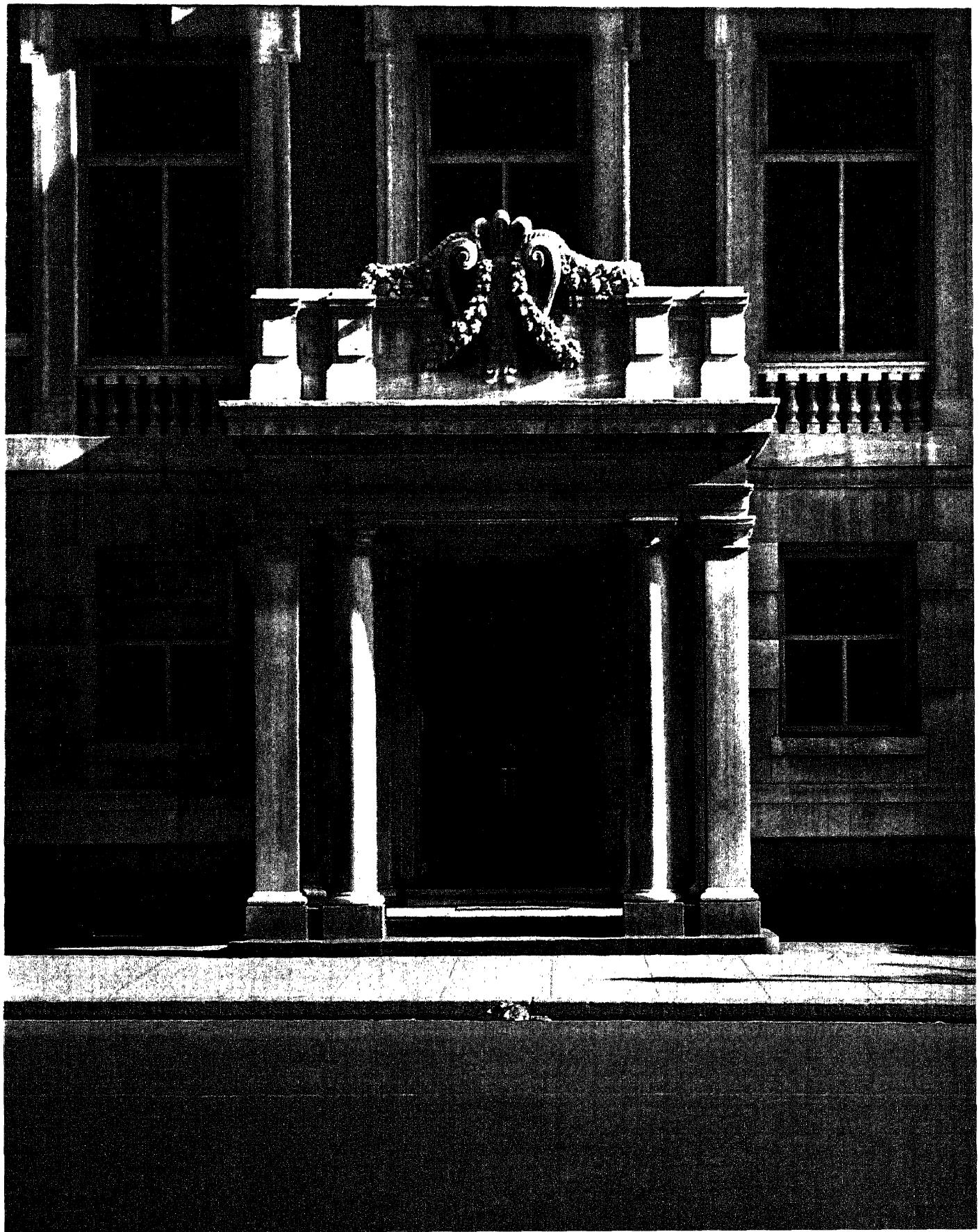


COSMOS CLUB

Here gather the leaders of the professions for
intellectual interchange and social intercourse.

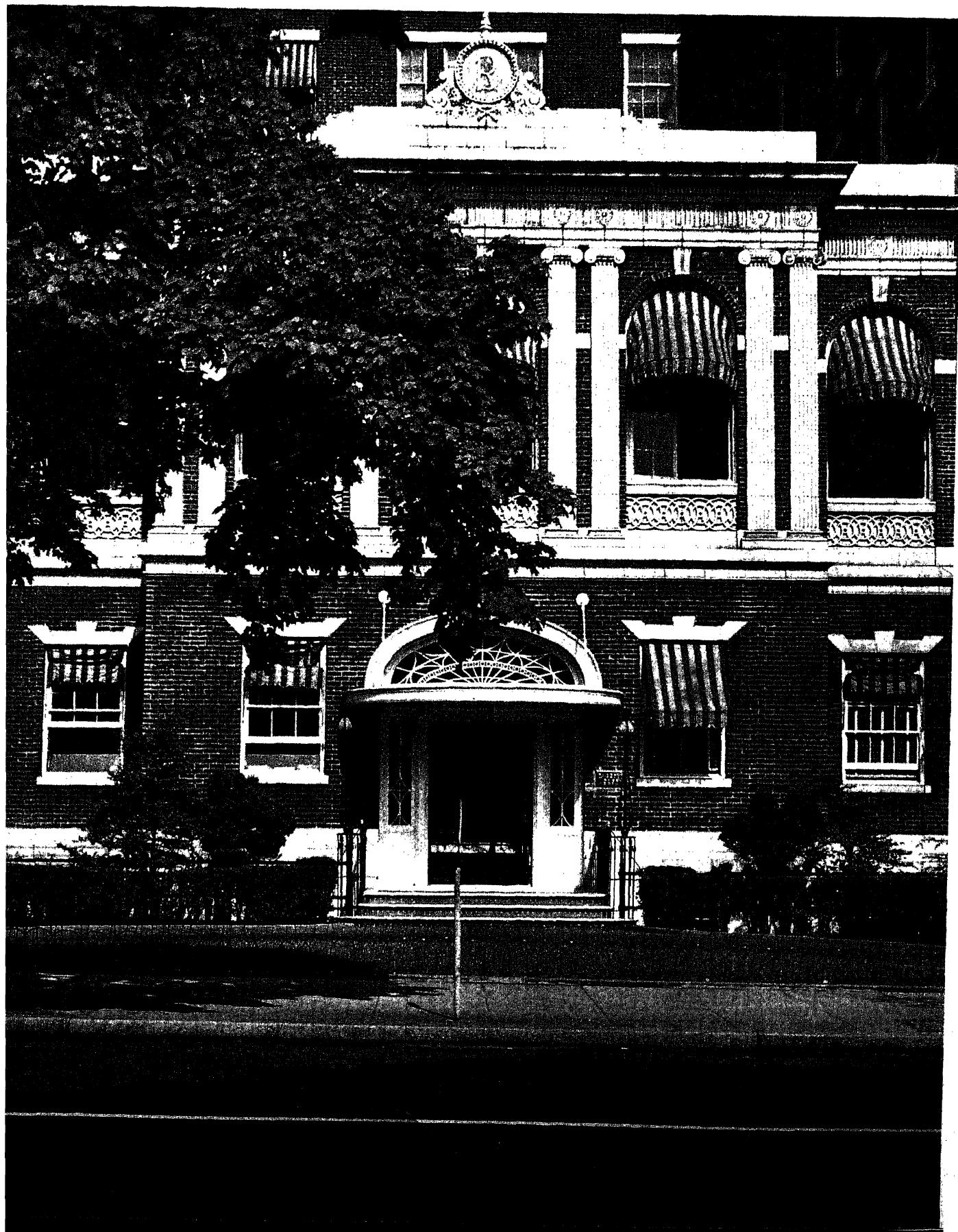
Founded in 1872, this institution has preserved the dignity
that comes from being one of the oldest clubs in the city.

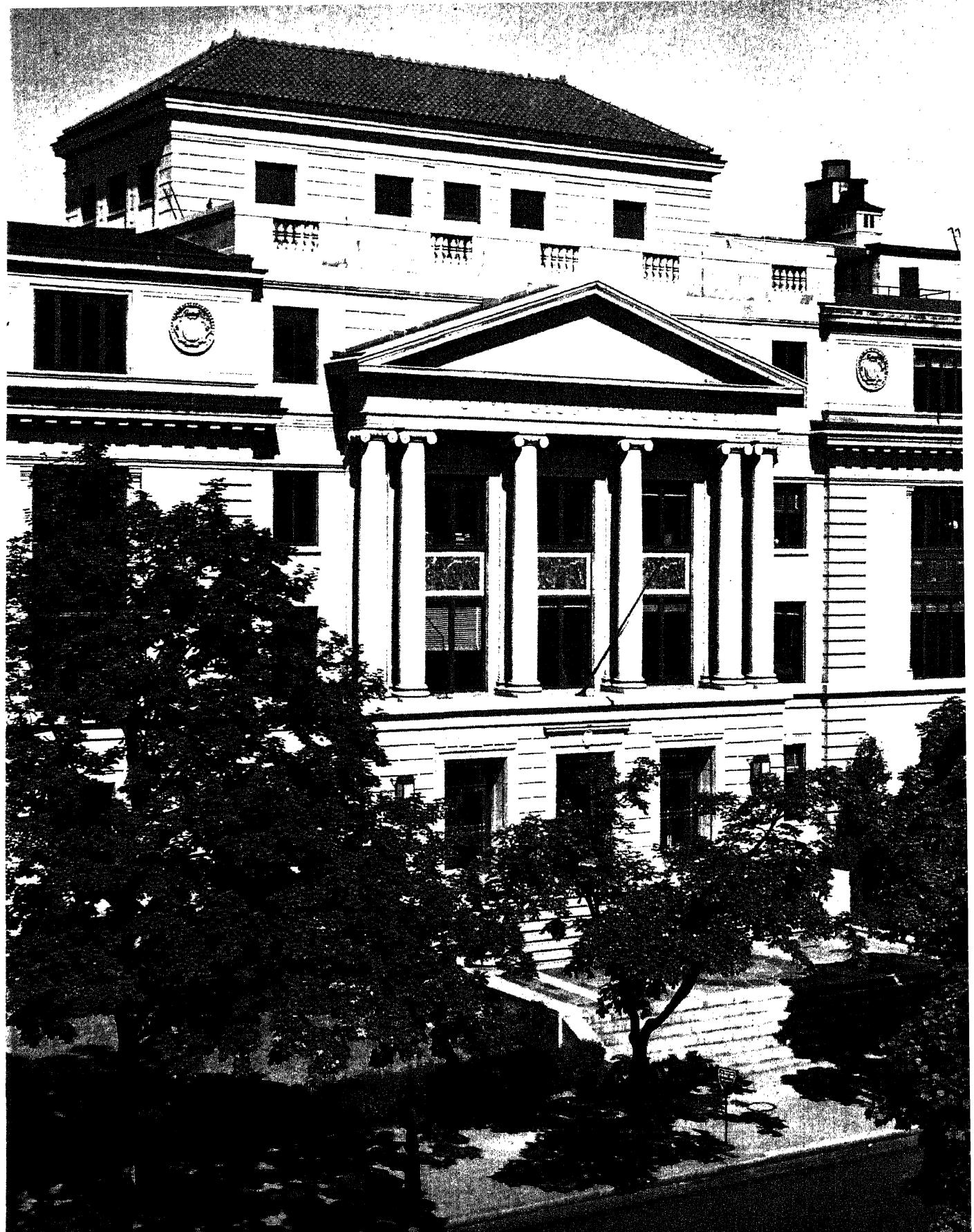
METROPOLITAN CLUB



Outside the Y.M.C.A., the Racquet Club has the only squash courts in the city, thus attracting a crowd of the athletic minded young.

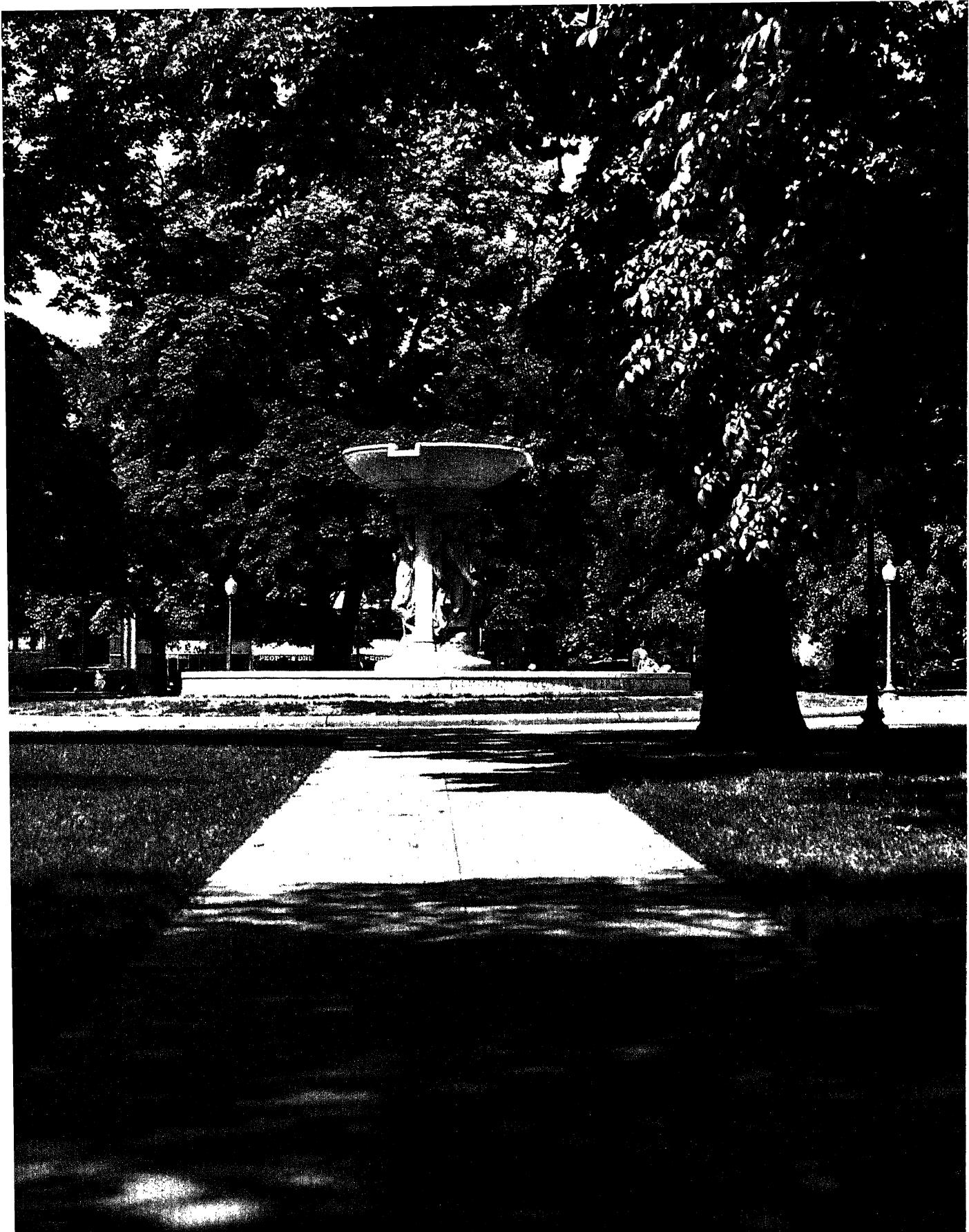
RACQUET CLUB





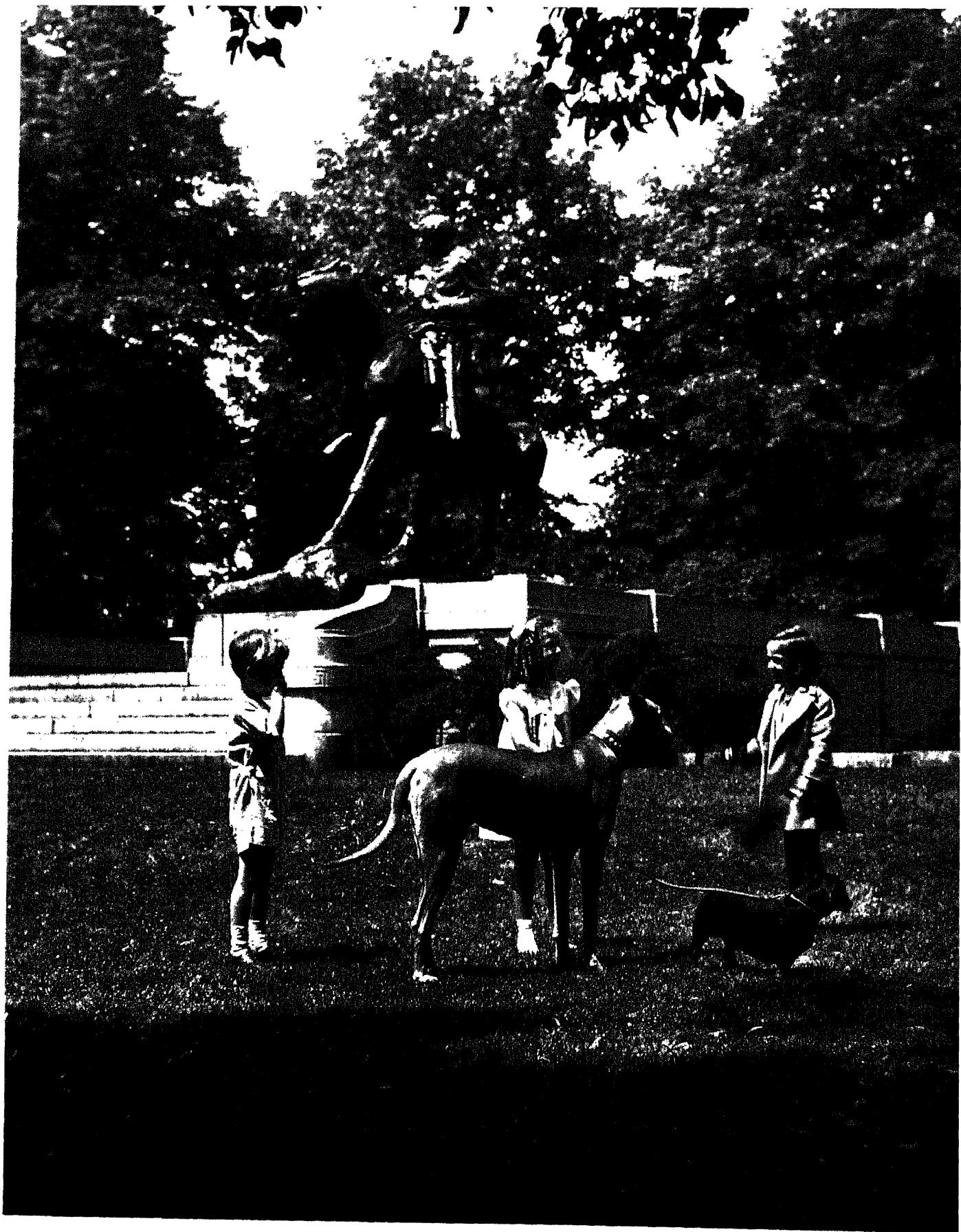
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The headquarters of a world-wide organization which has made known to the country the far corners of the earth with their fauna and flora.



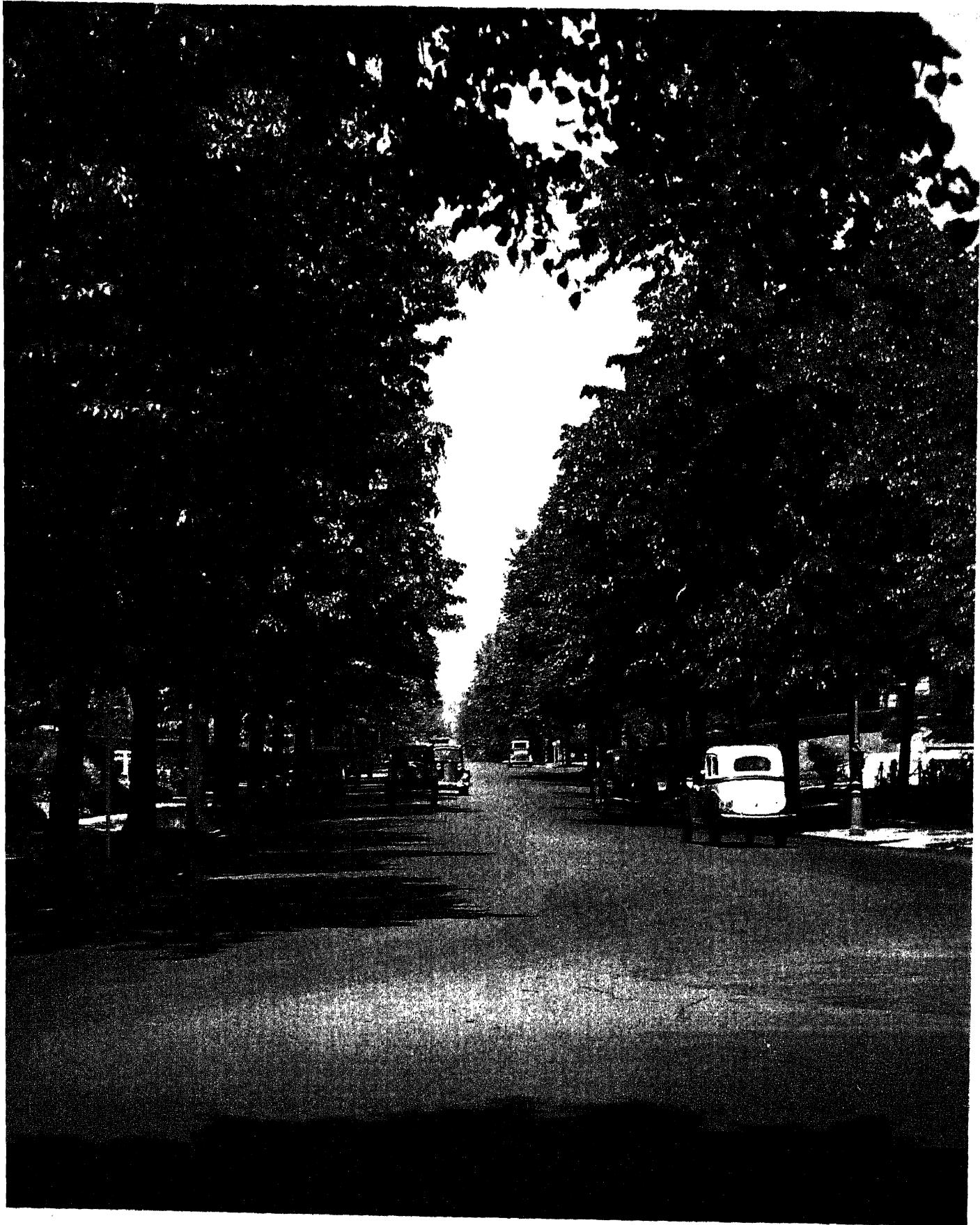
DU PONT CIRCLE

In this circle, where commercial Connecticut Avenue crosses residential Massachusetts Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue, 19th Street and P Street, the du Pont family have placed a marble fountain to commemorate Admiral du Pont.



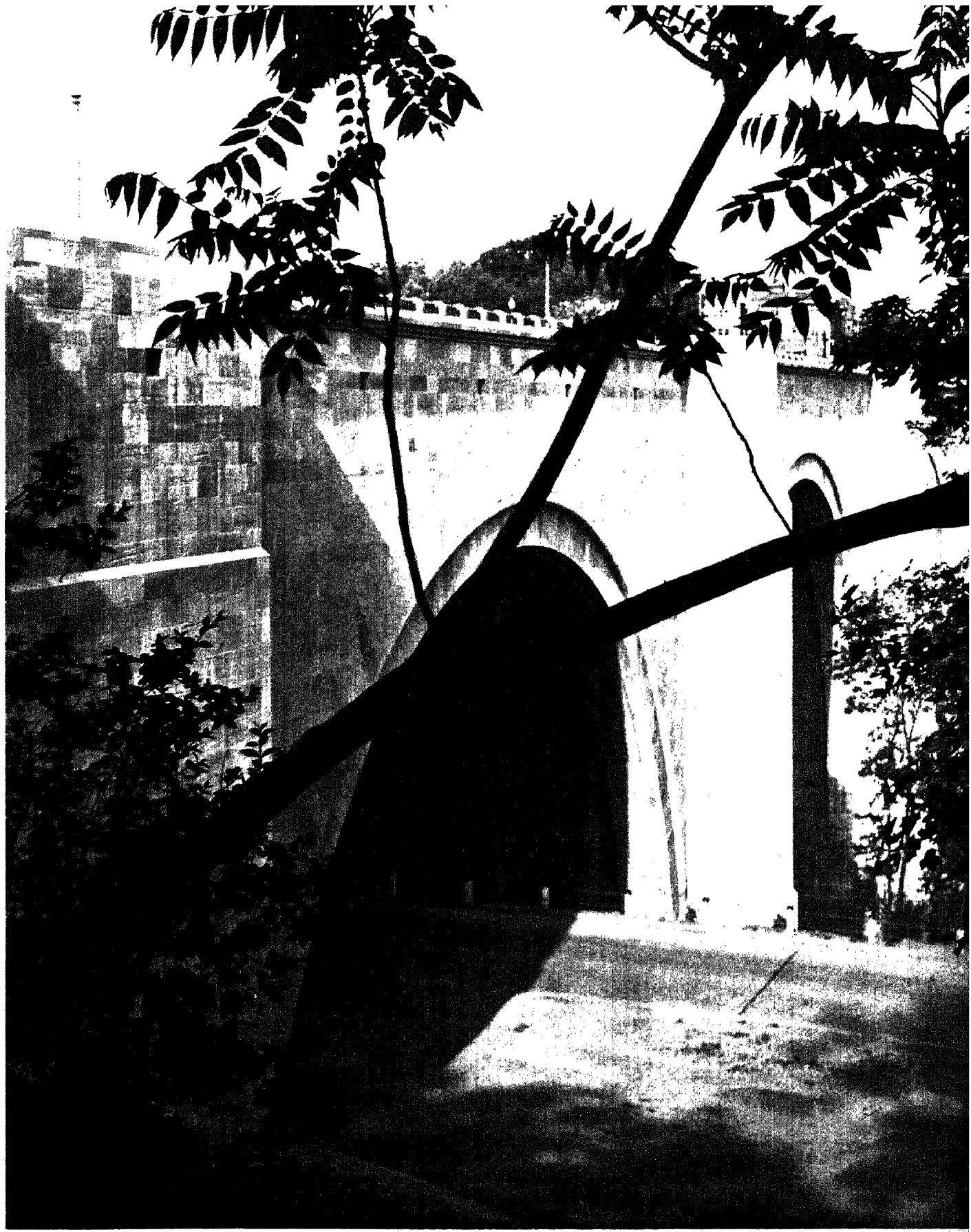
SHERIDAN CIRCLE

The numerous squares and circles in Washington afford constant pleasure to children and lovers of beauty.



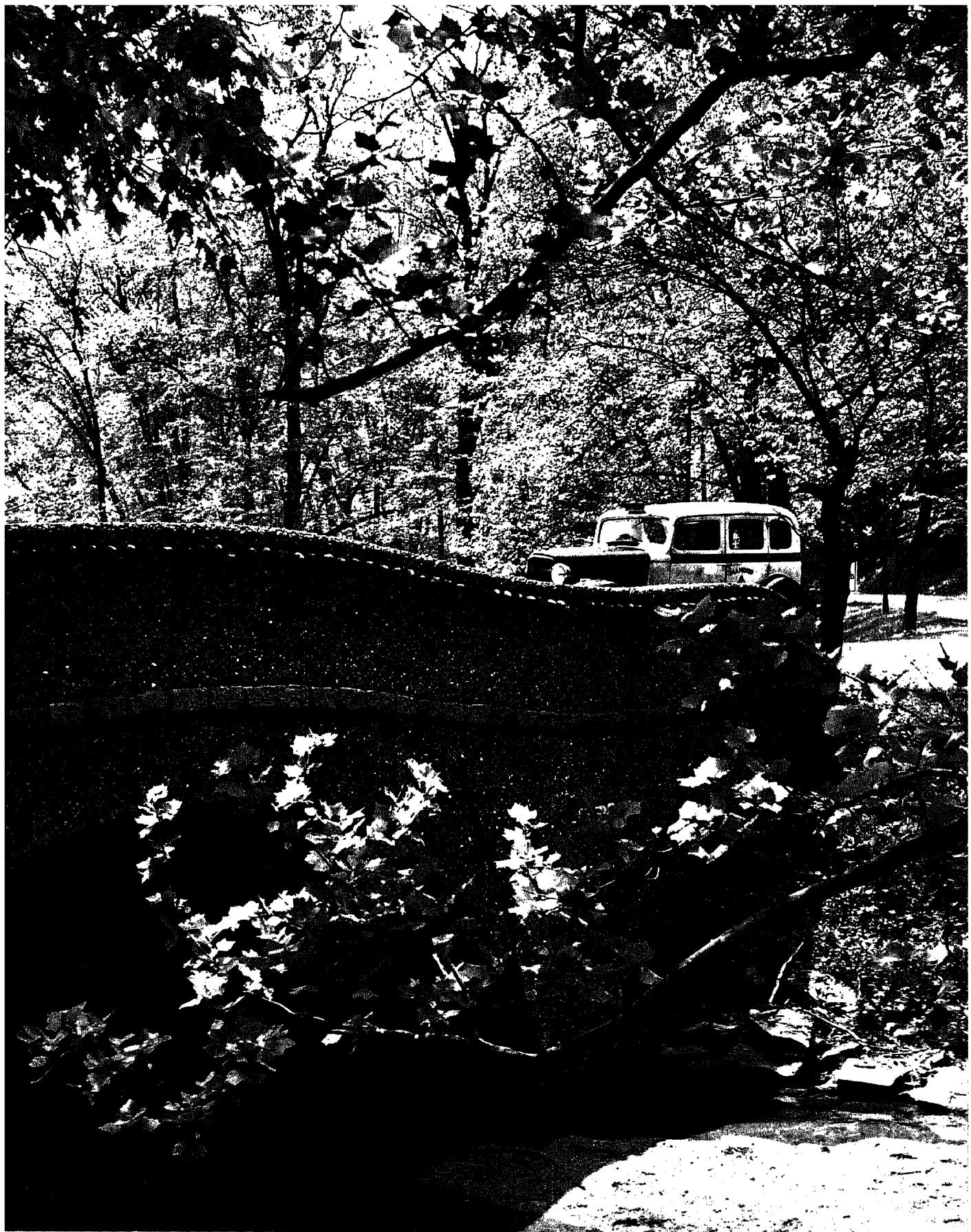
SWANK

On Massachusetts Avenue, more than on any other street in America, is found the large town house designed for entertaining in the grand manner.



P STREET BRIDGE

The stream of traffic across the many bridges is constant, while below, Rock Creek continues its way undisturbed.

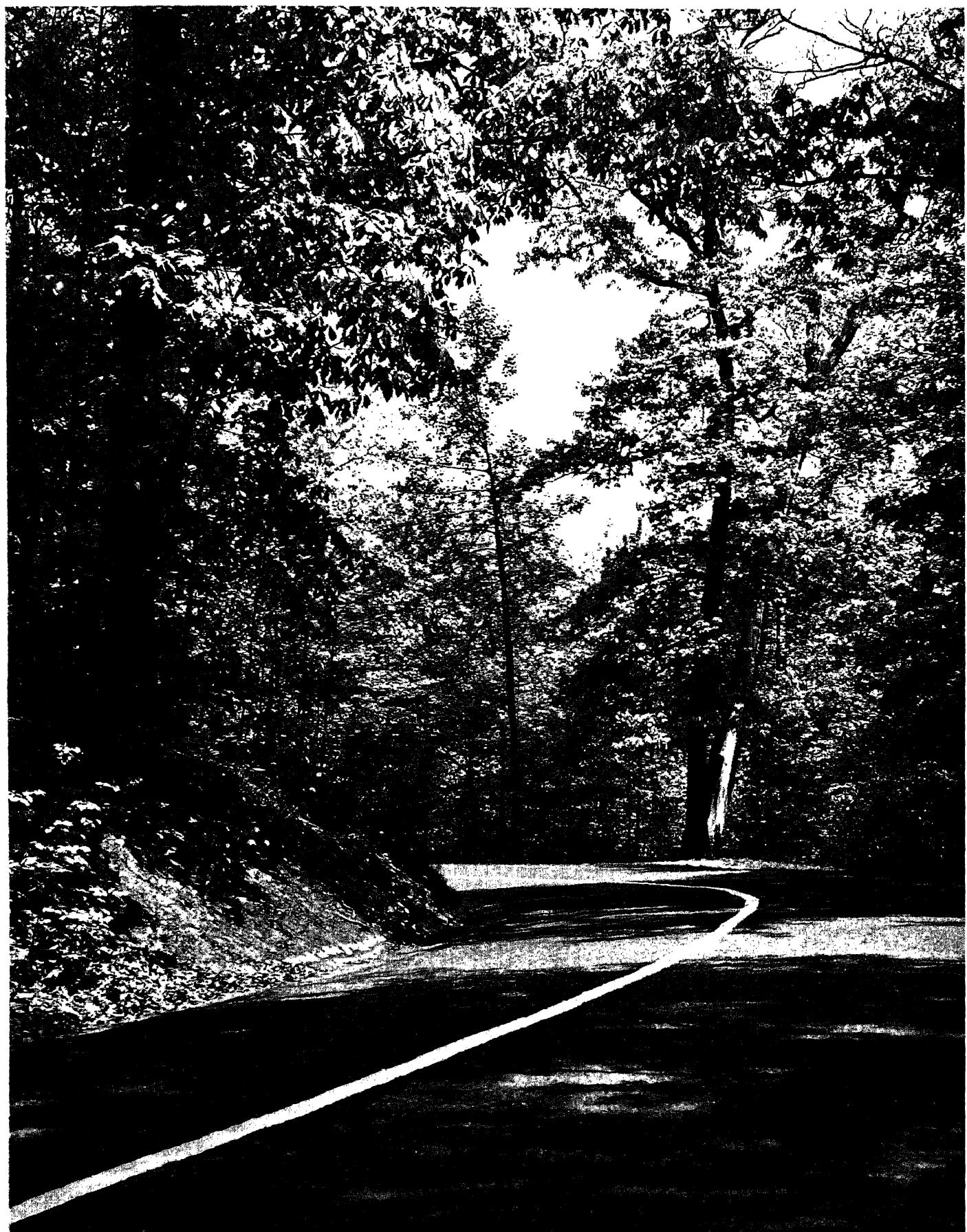


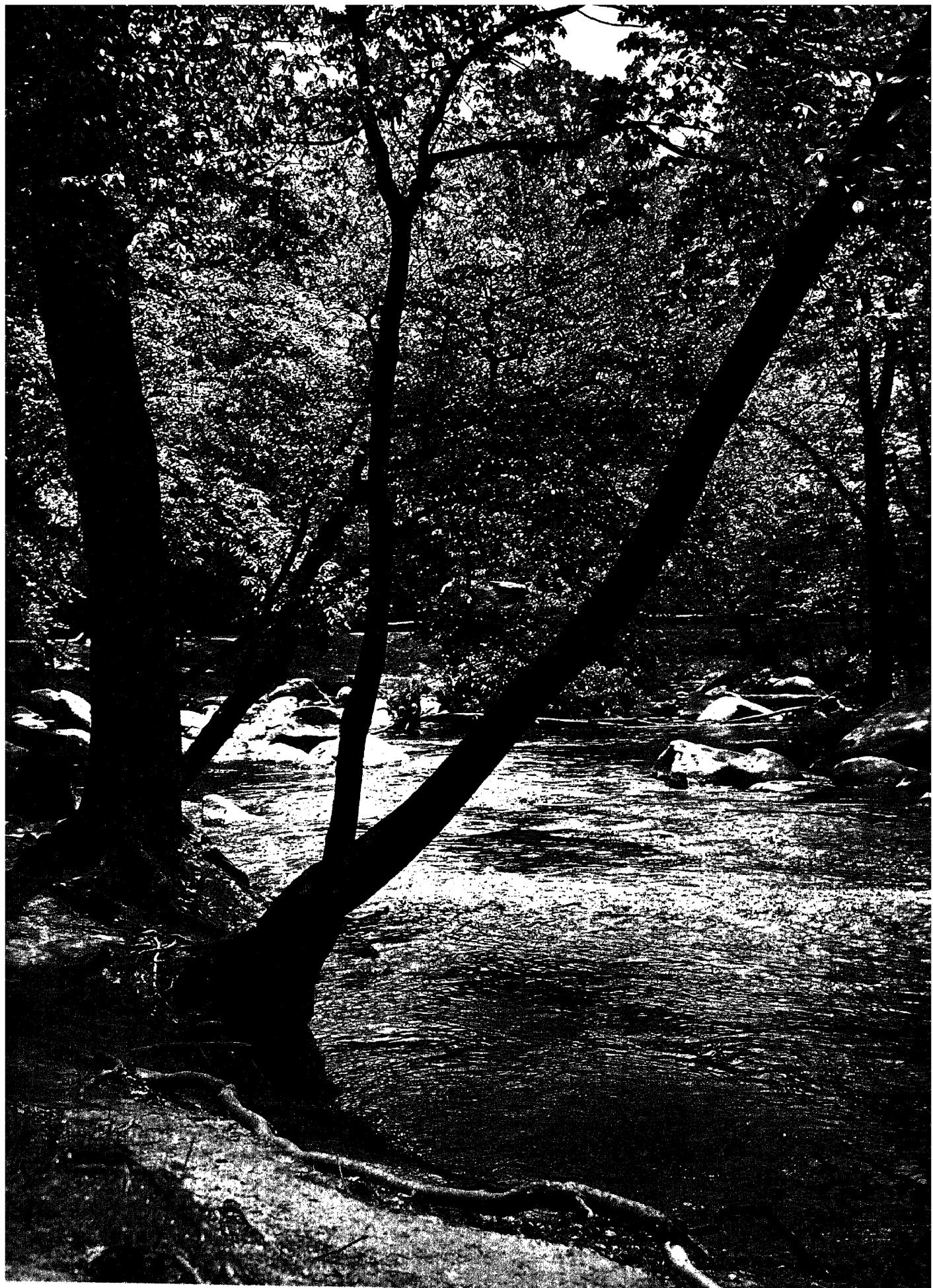
BRIDGE IN ROCK CREEK PARK

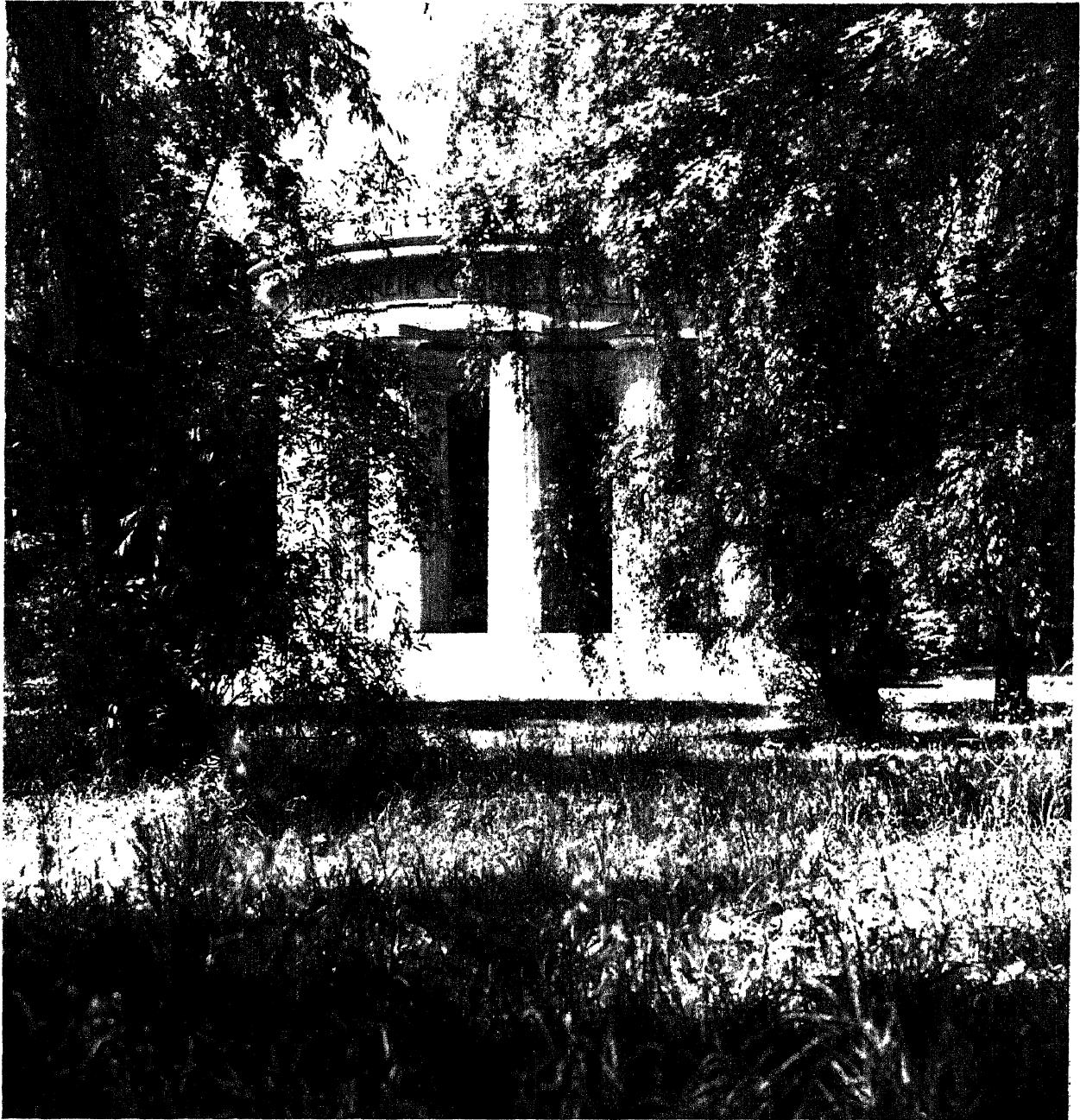
Rock Creek Park has many and beautiful walks; while for the less energetic, but none the less frugal, great stretches are within the low rate taxi zone.

Running through the midst of the northwest section of the city, the wooded ravine of Rock Creek Park provides a pleasant artery from the heart of the city.

ROCK CREEK PARK





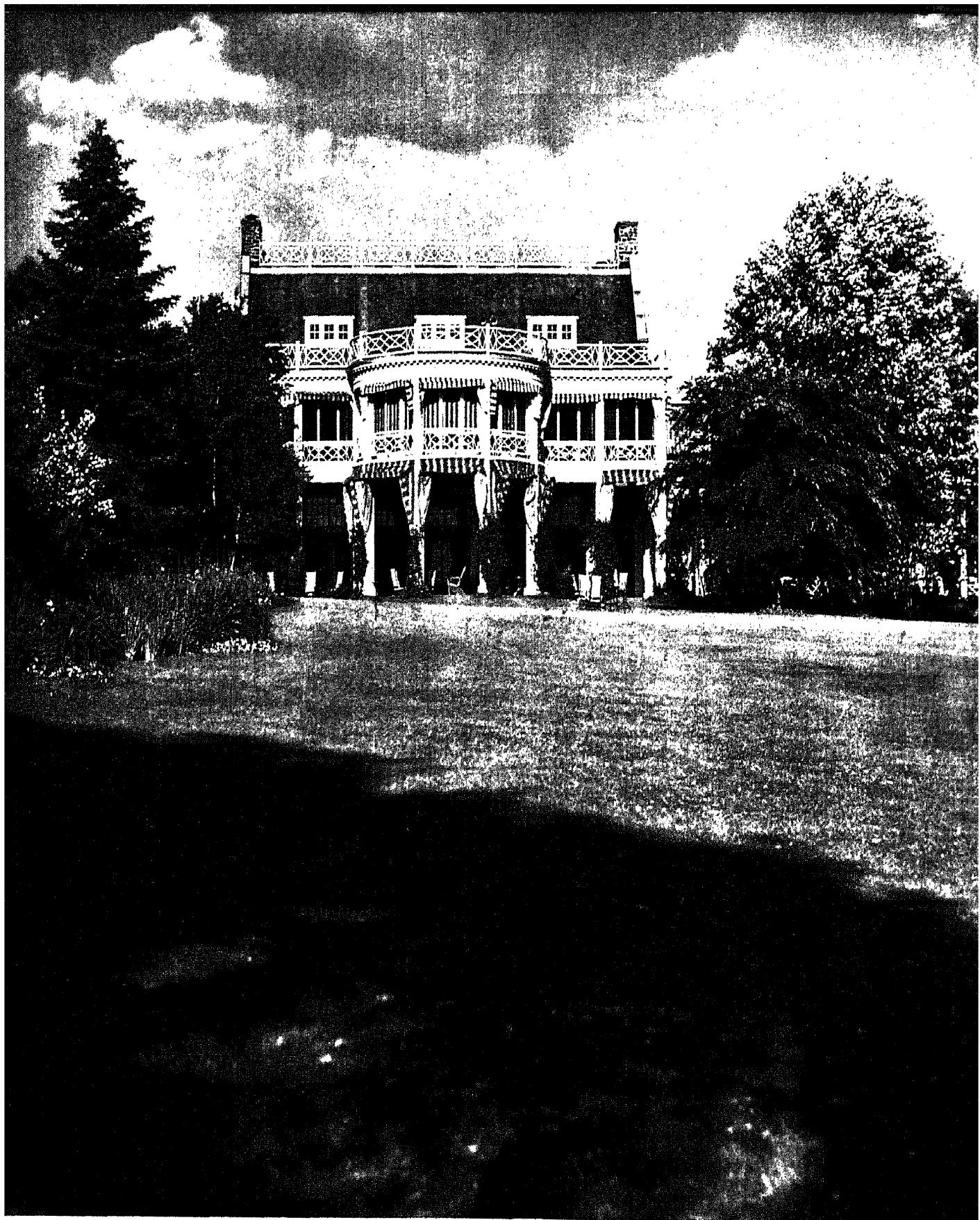


WAR MEMORIAL

In Potomac Park stands this little temple to
those who laid down their lives for others.

ROCK CREEK

Those holding office "so long as his services may be needed" frequent the miles of bridle paths along the banks of Rock Creek Park.

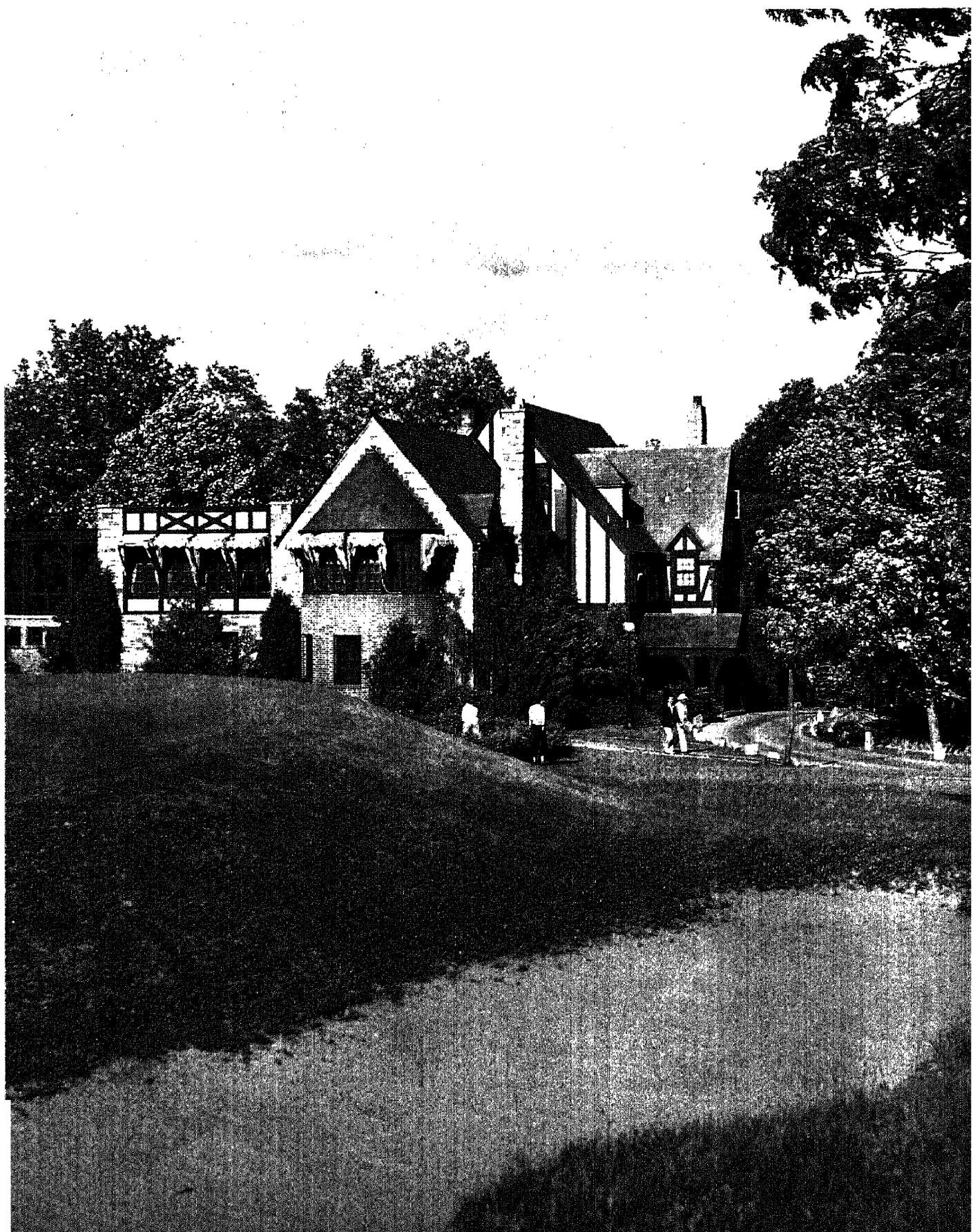


CHEVY CHASE CLUB

When founded for riding and hunting, this club was considered well out in the country; now devoted to golf, tennis and swimming, it is within the nearer suburbs.

This is one of a number of beautiful semi-public golf clubs, where governmental workers rush to escape the tropical heat of the summer days in the city.

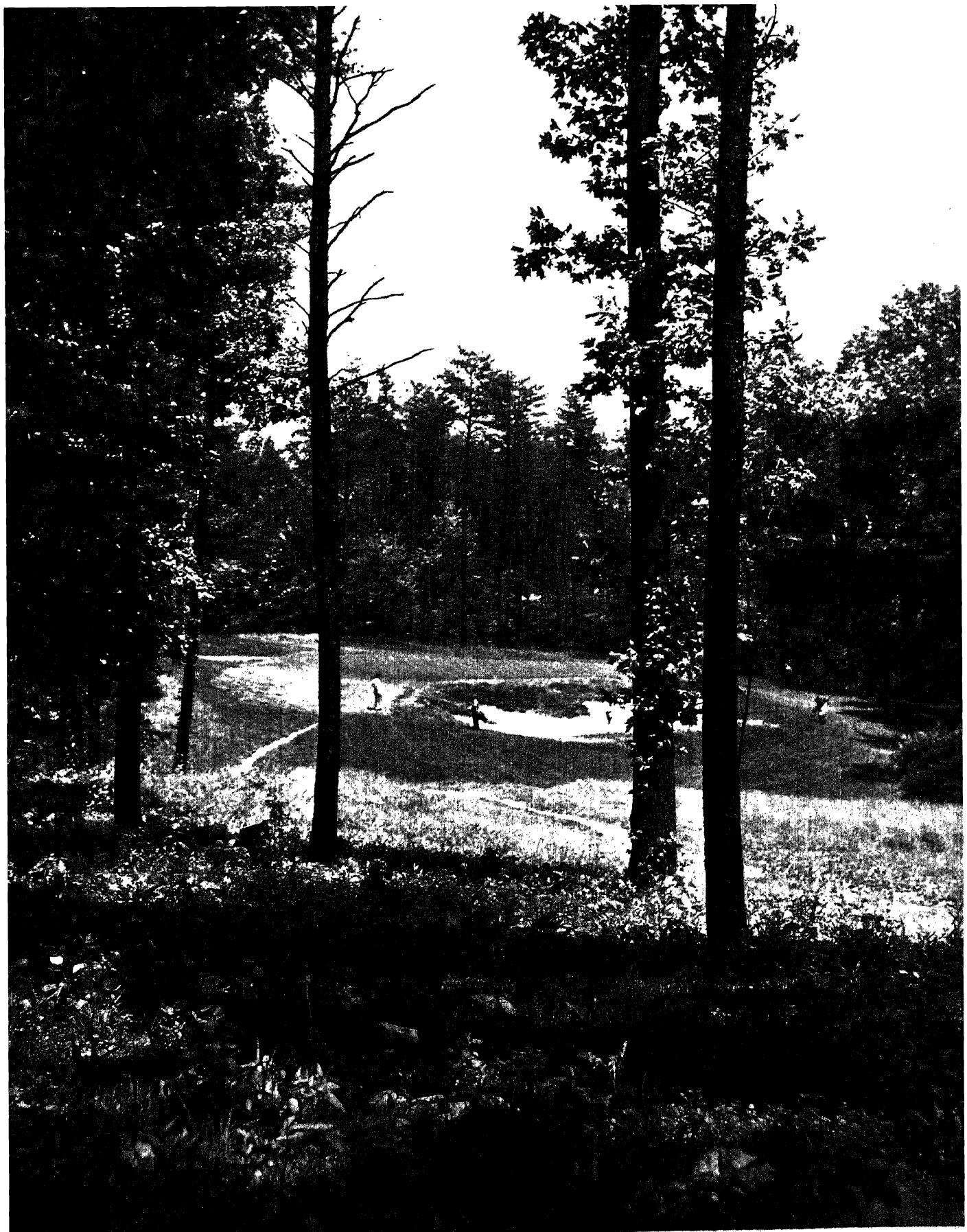
KENWOOD GOLF CLUB



The vast, gently rolling terrain provides admirable fairways and greens for the golf enthusiasts of the city.

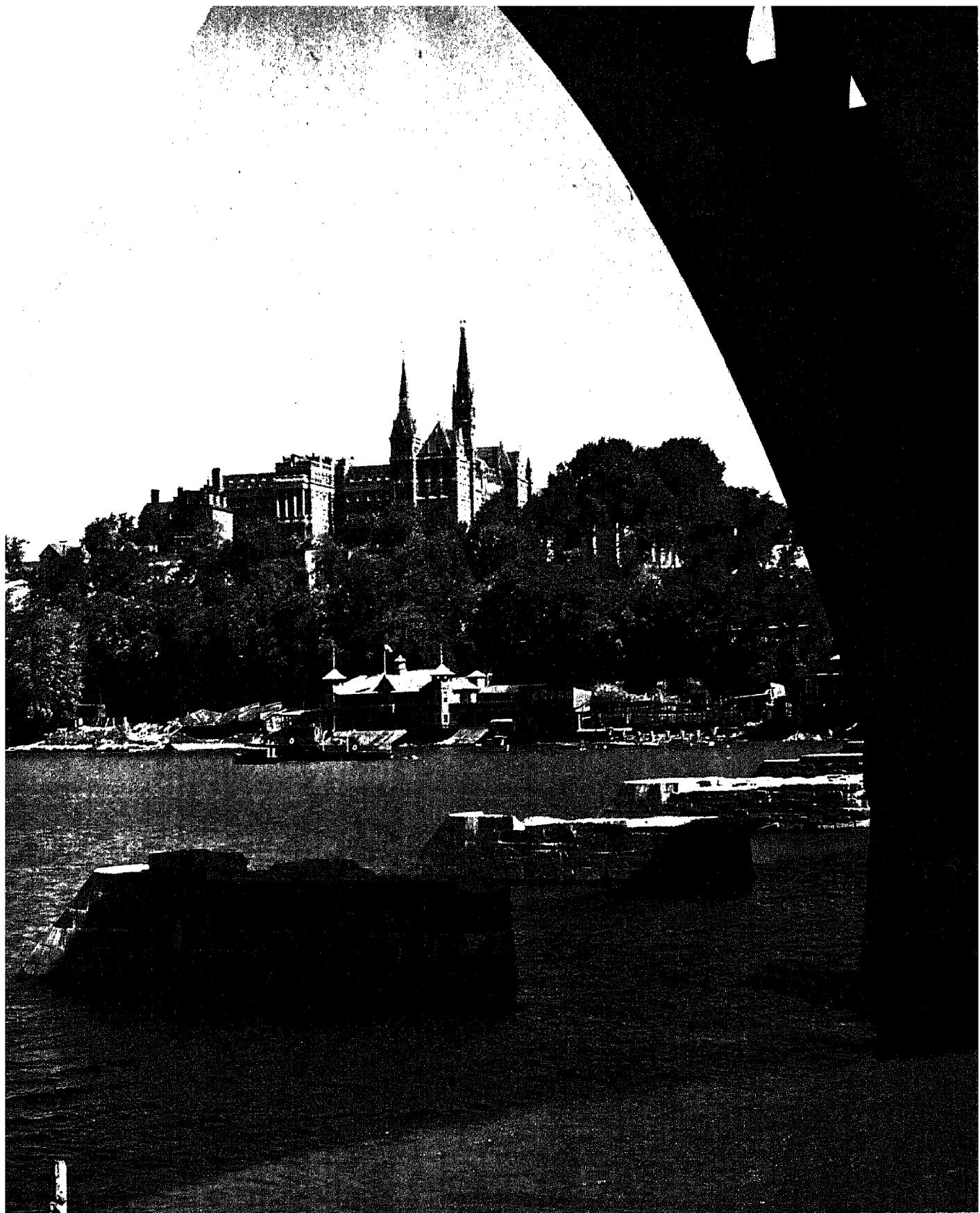
COLUMBIA GOLF CLUB





BURNING TREE GOLF CLUB

No woman is ever allowed in this club, but no confidences will be broken
& it is said that some of the best golf in the city is played on these links.

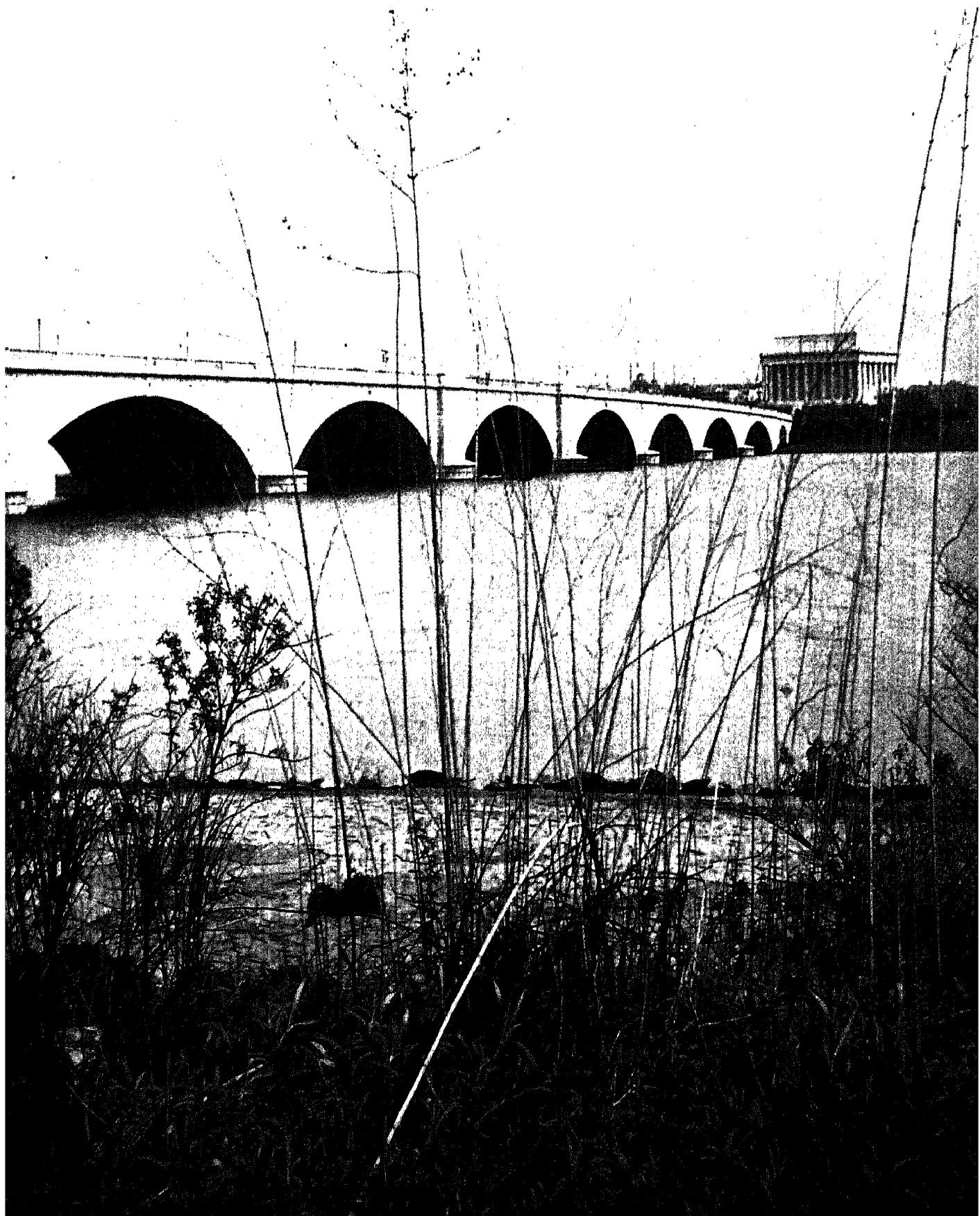


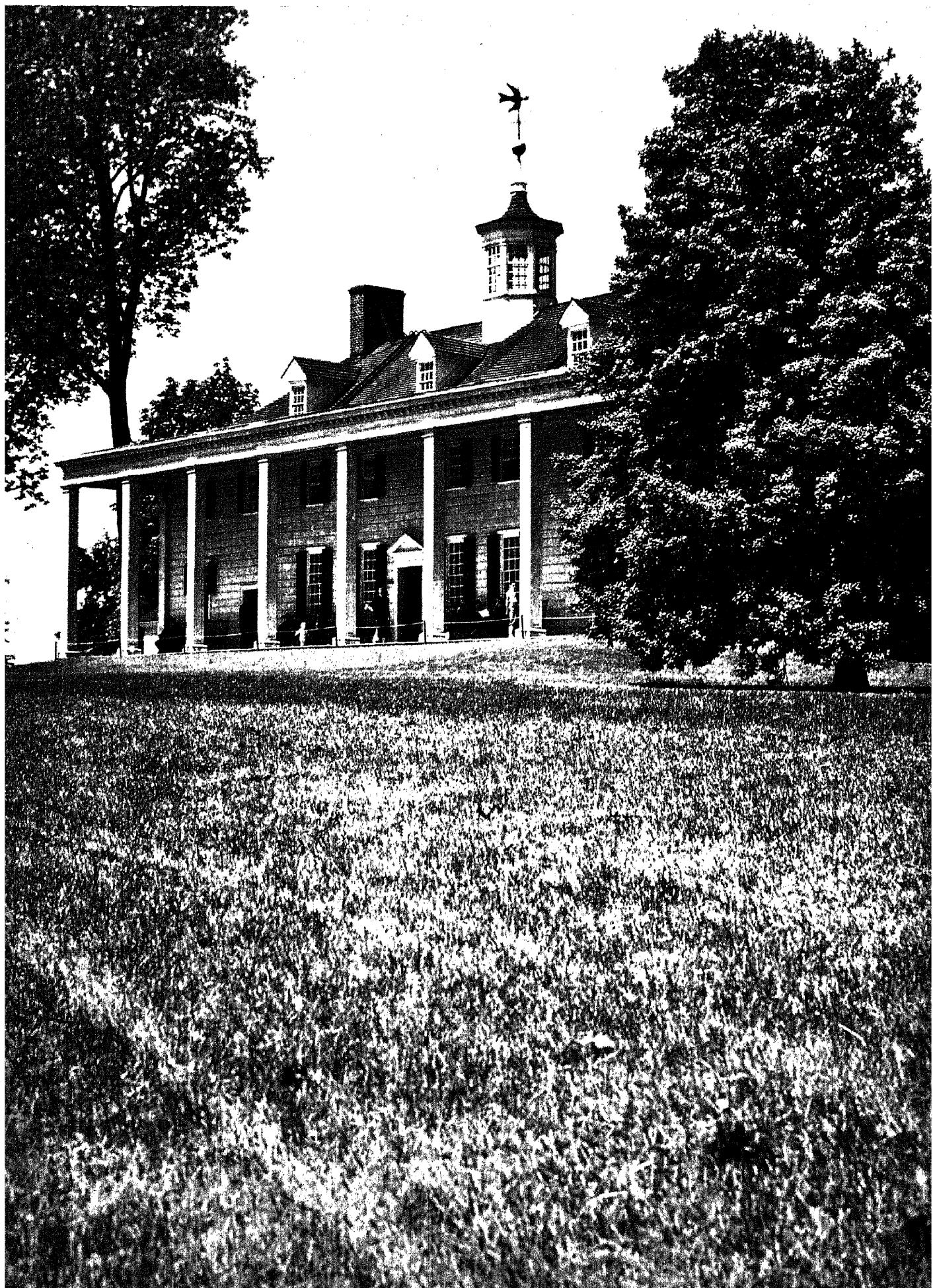
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

The Jesuits, known for their colonizing journeys through the northwest, placed their first university in this country on the heights of Georgetown, here seen through the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

From the Memorial for Lincoln to the home of Lee, arches march across the Potomac
in honor of the dead of all the United States who have given their lives for their country.

MEMORIAL BRIDGE

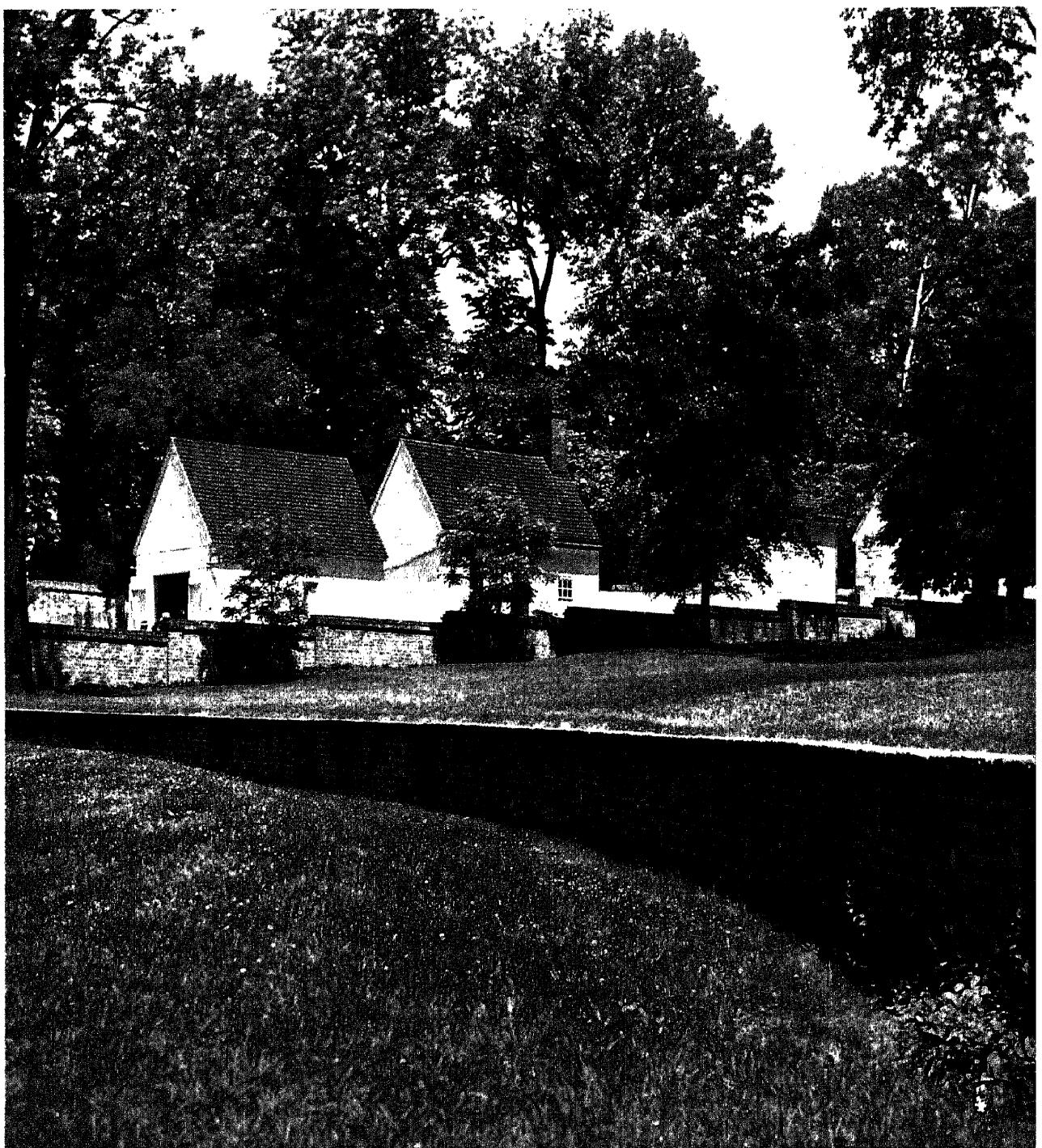




MT. VERNON

High on a bluff above the broad sweep of the Potomac, Mt. Vernon is a pure example of a period when the taste of the leaders followed a classical philosophy.

STABLES



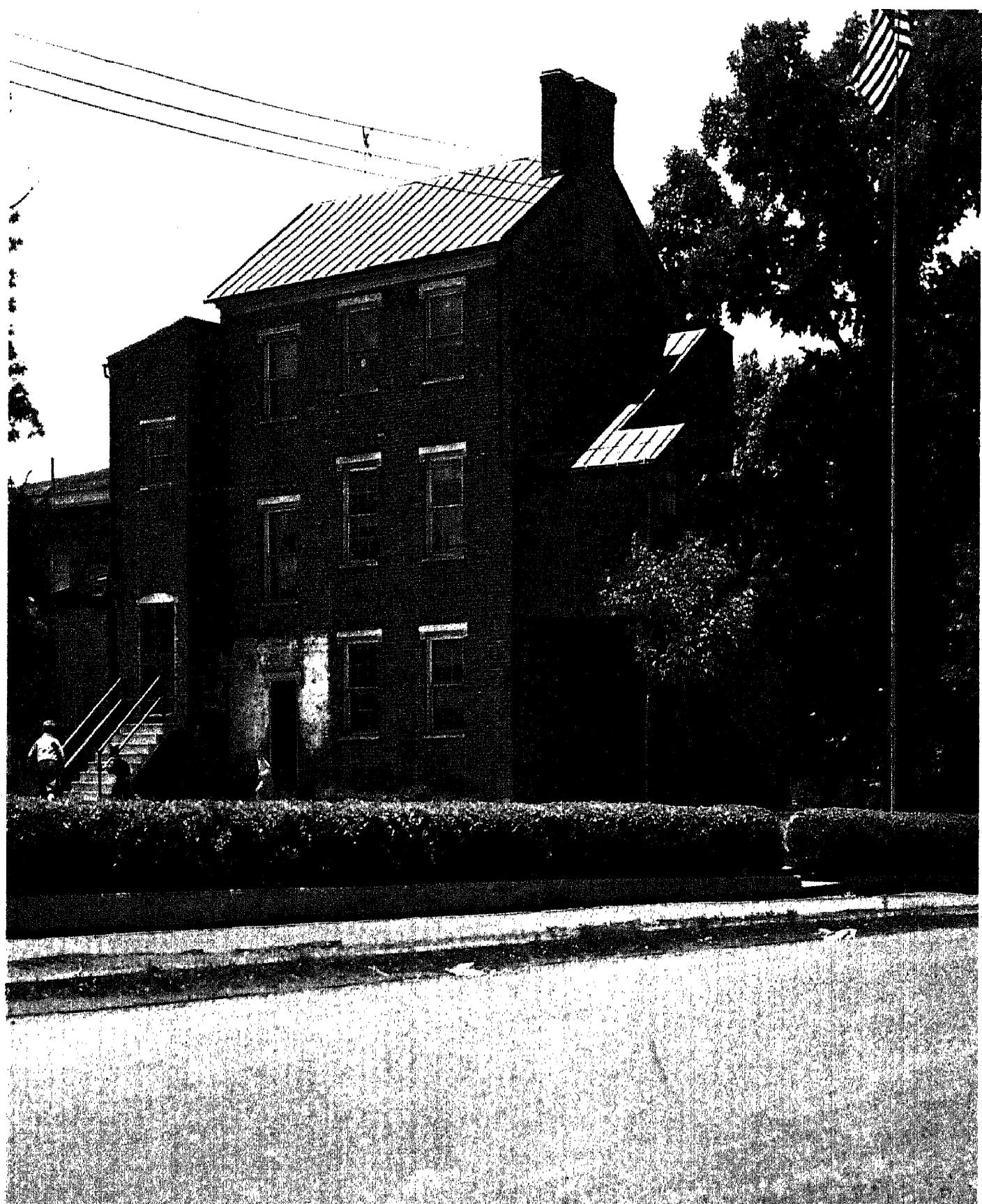


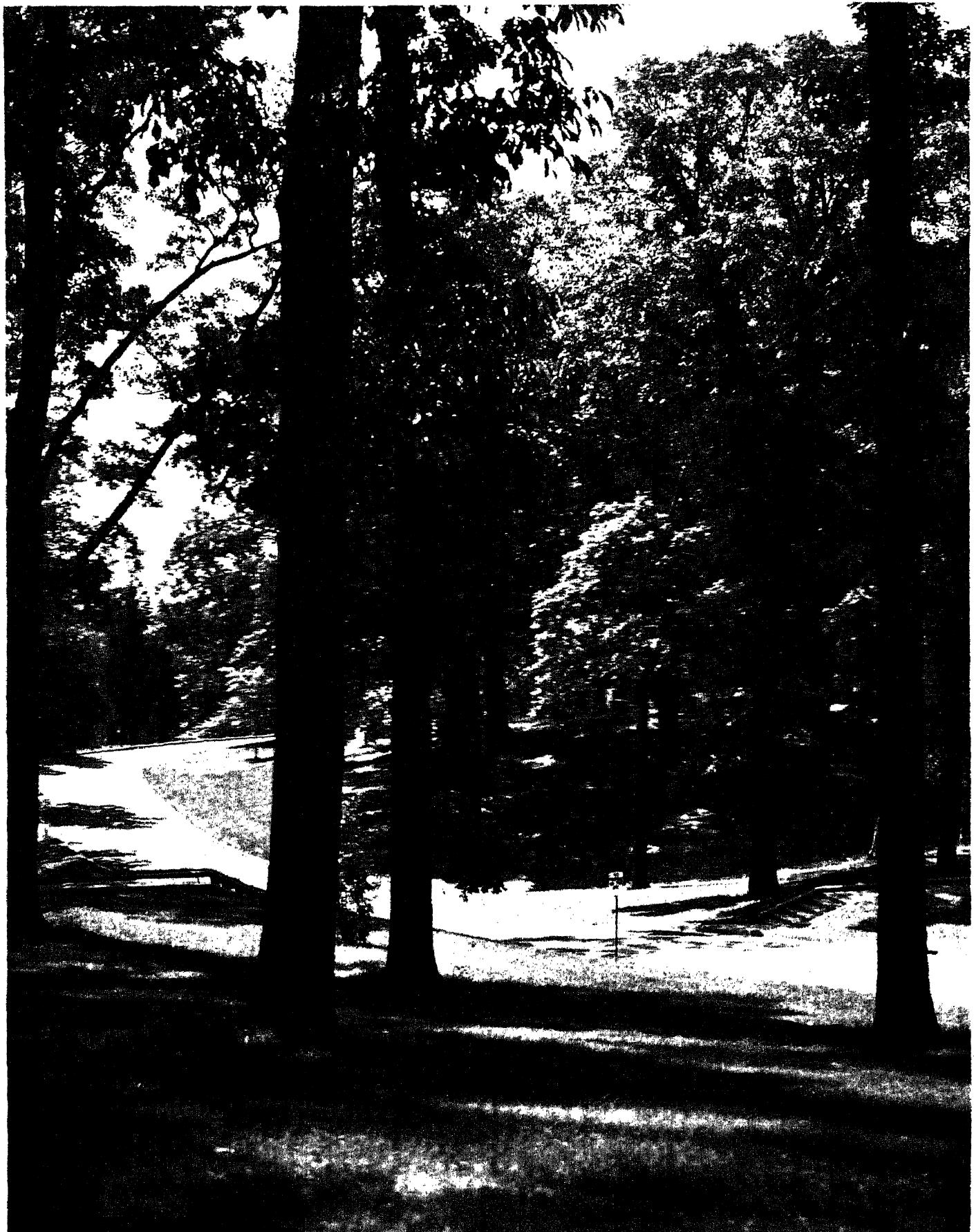
FROM THE PIAZZA

The slow and stately flow of the Potomac was in harmony with the quiet days of retirement at the end of Washington's life.

Among its historic memories, Alexandria preserves this school where Washington received his early education.

SCHOOL IN ALEXANDRIA





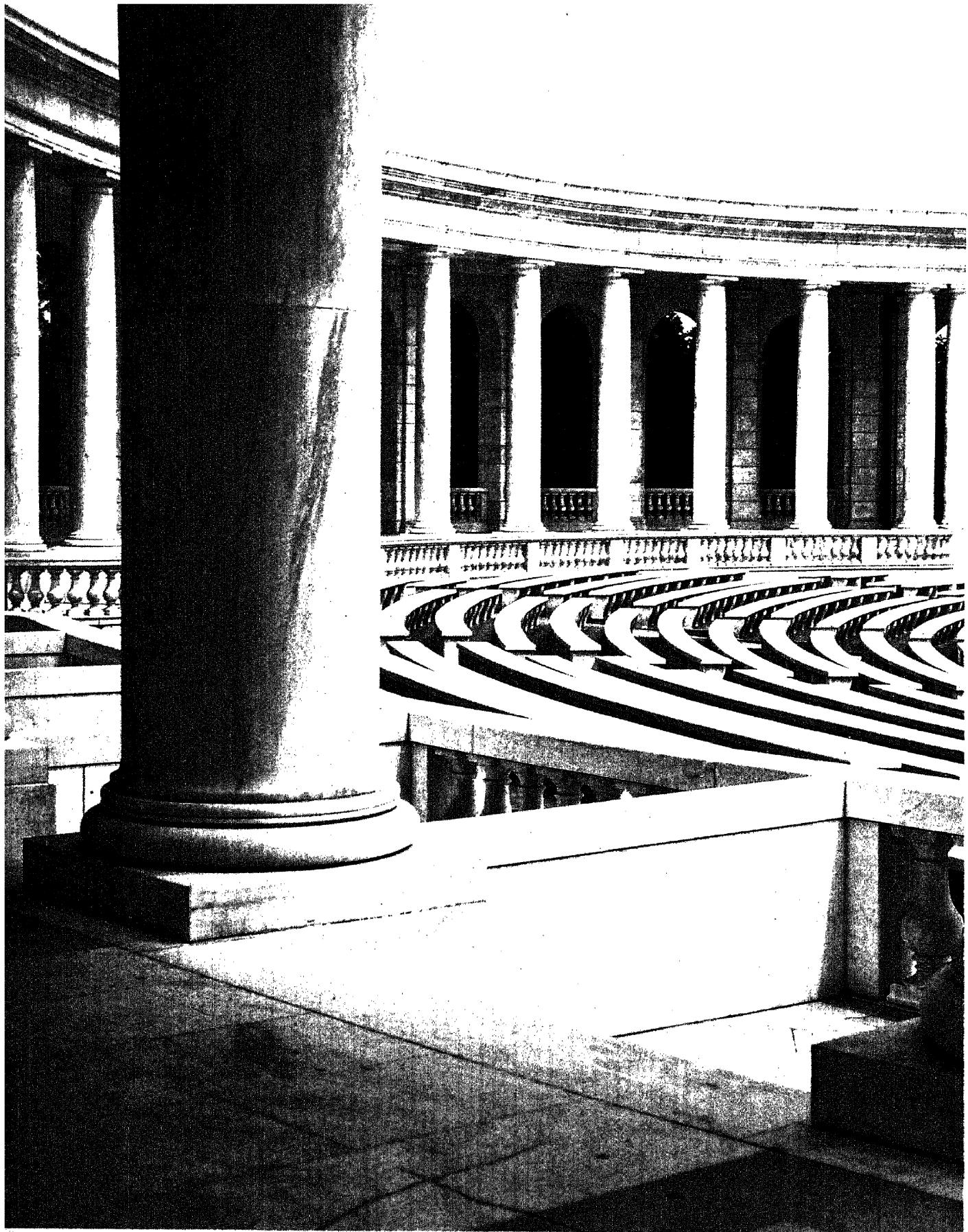
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Taken by the government during the war between the States, this estate of the Custis family was made a national military cemetery. The first burial was that of a Confederate soldier.



VIEW FROM ARLINGTON HOUSE

From this veranda General Lee, who lived here, could look across to the rising capital.

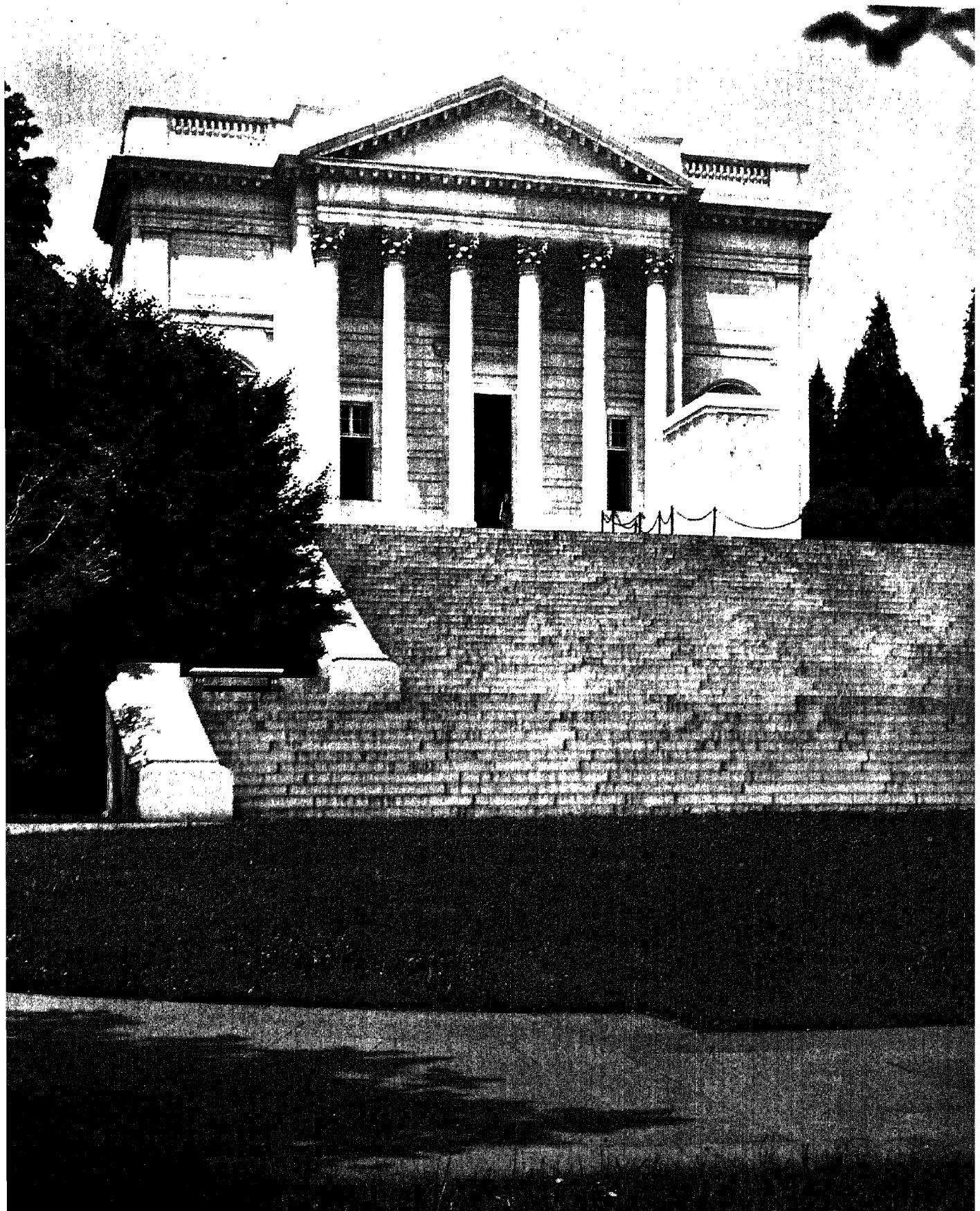


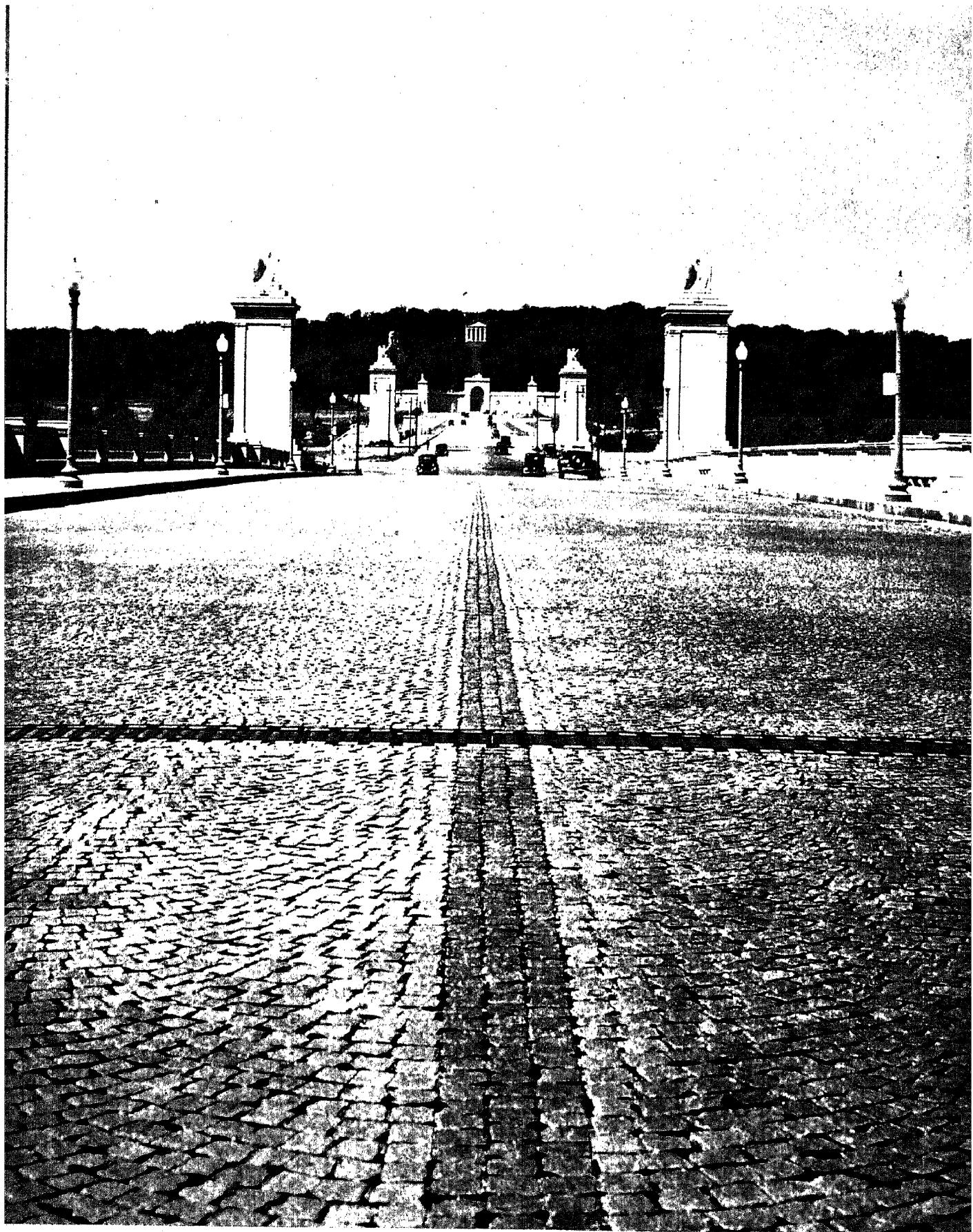
AMPHITHEATRE

For days of national exultation or mourning, these marble arches and colonnades were built in Arlington.

"Here rests his head upon the lap of earth,
A youth to fortune and to fame unknown."

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER





MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Across the broad Potomac towards Arlington House goes the highroad connecting the District of Columbia with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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	27 U. S TREASURY
	28 TITANIC MEMORIAL
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COVER—DOME OF THE CAPITOL	30 COMMERCE BUILDING
5 FOREWORD	31 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
8 CHERRY BLOSSOMS	32 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
0 WASHINGTON MONUMENT	33 ARCHIVES
1 WEST FROM LINCOLN MEMORIAL	34 ARCHIVES
2 LINCOLN MEMORIAL	35 COURT OF JUSTICE
3 SUPREME COURT	36 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
4 INTERIOR COURT OF SUPREME COURT	37 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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THE CATHEDRAL	44 SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
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NEW YORK AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	46 PAN AMERICAN UNION
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